

31 injured in Beirut flare-up

BEIRUT (R) — Thirty-one people were wounded in a sudden exchange of rocket and mortar fire on Sunday between mainly Christian east Beirut and the predominantly-Muslim western sector, local radios reported. They said the shelling hit many residential areas in both sectors and called for blood donors to report to hospitals. It was the first big flare-up of factional fighting in the Lebanese capital since a Syrian-backed security plan took effect in the western half of the capital four weeks ago. Sunday's fighting was the worst outbreak of violence since a machinegun attack on a hospital bus in west Beirut on July 19 in which four people were killed. The cause of the sudden flare-up was not immediately clear.

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Kuwait stresses need for unanimity

KUWAIT (AP) — The government of Kuwait, showing implicit disapproval of Moroccan King Hassan for meeting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, said Sunday that any Arab peace moves on the Middle East problem should be backed by Arab unanimity and endorsed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "The cabinet expresses the conviction that our Arab nation has no means of confronting dangers and challenges from enemies except through a unified stance and by entering every effort to bolster pan-Arab solidarity," Cabinet Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al-Otaibi told reporters after a regular session. "The cabinet also expresses the belief that any Arab move on the Palestine question must emanate from unanimous Arab action and should be endorsed by the PLO," he said. There was no reference to Kuwait's reply on the call for all Arab summit conference, an issue that was expected to be taken up at the cabinet session.

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Iranians stop 2 ships in Gulf

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian warships stopped and searched two foreign vessels near the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf on Saturday, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a communique issued in Tehran as saying that the ships were allowed to sail on after the navy was satisfied they were not carrying war material for Iran. The ships were not identified. The Iranian navy frequently intercepts vessels sailing into the Gulf.

8th body recovered after Italian landslide

SENISE, Italy (R) — The death toll in a landslide that destroyed two houses in a southern Italian village rose to eight overnight when rescue workers recovered the body of a nine-year-old girl. Her brother and sister had earlier been found dead. Five members of another family also died when tons of sand and stones slid down a hillside on the outskirts of Senise, about 120 kilometres south-east of Potenza, just before dawn on Saturday. Three children are in hospital with serious injuries but rescue workers do not believe anyone else is left in the rubble. About 240 people evacuated after the landslide spent the night in temporary accommodation.

Ortega in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has arrived for an address at the United Nations Security Council, where he is to seek support for a World Court ruling denouncing U.S. aid for the contra rebels. Mr. Ortega arrived on a commercial flight at John F. Kennedy International Airport at 8:30 p.m. Saturday (0030 GMT Sunday), police said.

Refugee tents attacked in West Berlin

WEST BERLIN (R) — Petrol bombs early on Sunday destroyed two tents in the latest incident involving Third World refugees using West Berlin as a gateway to West Germany, police said. They said nobody was hurt in the attack, which destroyed two unoccupied tents erected as emergency shelter for refugees from Asia, the Middle East and Africa, who have been pouring into West Berlin from neighbouring East Berlin. The police added that they found six beer bottles filled with flammable liquid which had failed to explode on the tent site. The attackers were unknown.

Gorbachev reviews Pacific Fleet

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev marked navy day on Sunday by reviewing the Pacific Fleet in the Far-Eastern port of Vladivostok. State television showed him sitting in the reviewing stand with his wife Raisa and the commander-in-chief of the Soviet navy, Vladimir Chernomyr, as the most up-to-date cruisers, submarines lined up out to sea.

King returns after extensive talks with Assad in Damascus

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Sunday after two days of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on topics believed to have centred on Jordan's efforts to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences and on the latest developments in the Middle East.

The King, who was accompanied on the visit to Damascus by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah and several cabinet members, held several rounds of talks with President Assad on Saturday and Sunday. Some of the talks were not attended by any sides.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the focus of the talks was the "current Arab situation, bilateral relations and the King's efforts to clear the Arab

atmosphere and settle inter-Arab differences."

Mr. Rifai and his Syrian counterpart, Dr. Abdul Raouf Al Kasbi, headed ministers and officials from both sides in talks on Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in various fields. The talks dealt with means for promoting trade exchange between the two countries, increasing barter trade, developing the work of joint Jordanian-Syrian companies and improving the standard of their activities, Petra said. Ways and means to strengthen economic

integration between the two countries were also discussed during the meetings, it added. The Jordanian delegation to the talks included Minister of Industry and Trade Rajal Muasher, Minister of Finance Hanna Odah, Transport Minister Rajal Dajani and Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasbi.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were accorded warm welcome and farewell ceremonies upon their arrival at and departure from the Syrian capital. President Assad headed high-level delegations in both ceremonies.

In Amman, the King and the delegation were received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet members and senior civil officials and high-ranking army officers as well as the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Upon his return to Amman, the King sent a telegram to President Assad thanking him for the hospitality the King and the Jordanian delegation were accorded in Syria.

"My intensive talks with Your Excellency have presented a good opportunity to discuss the Arab situation from all its aspects and to assess the latest developments in the Arab region," the King said in his telegram. "I pray to God that our efforts will pay in the service of the Arab Nation and its higher interests and aspirations."

Rafsanjani threatens attacks against Arab states in Gulf

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has threatened to attack Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or any other Gulf country which gives Iraq money to buy arms to hit Iranian oil facilities.

The Iranian warning, the strongest and most direct so far to Iraq's war allies in the region, was contained in an article by Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani published in the monthly Pasdar-E Islam Sunday.

"We hit their ships now, but if necessary we will do to countries supporting (Iraqi President) Saddam (Husseini) what we did to Kirkup," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

He was referring to two ground-to-ground missiles Iran fired into the northern Iraqi oil town of Kirkuk last month. It was believed to be the first public admission by an Iranian official that Tehran had hit Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti merchant

ships in the Gulf "tanker war," an extension of the ground conflict between Iran and Iraq, now in its sixth year.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, along with Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which generally has supported Iraq in the war.

On the waterfront, the National News Agency IRNA claimed that Iraqi warplanes Sunday attacked another Iranian centre, killing several people in the central industrial city of Arak.

Mr. Rafsanjani's article singled out Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for helping fund Iraq's war effort. "If Iraq is to buy weapons and attack our oil centres with oil money from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or another country, we will hit them," he wrote.

Tehran Radio indicated in a commentary that Iran was "punishing pro-Iraqi Gulf

countries" by attacking their shipping.

Attacks on oil tankers of Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf, or inspection of ships in the Hormuz Strait meant that sheikhs supporting Saddam (Husseini) suffer most from insecurity in the Persian Gulf," it said.

Shipping sources in the Gulf say at least three Saudi Arabian tankers have been hit in Iranian attacks so far this year. A total of about 45 vessels, mainly tankers, have been damaged by Iran and Iraq since January.

Meanwhile, Iraqi and Iranian air forces have stepped up action in the last few days. Warning sirens sounded in Tehran Sunday but no raid was reported.

Iraqi jets last week hit a village just south of Tehran and attacked the western cities of Marivan and Sanandaj. Iranian media said the raids killed 35 people and wounded 108.

Howe steps up pressure on Pretoria

PRETORIA (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe stepped up pressure on the South African government for reform on Sunday, indicating that only Pretoria could break the deadlock in peace efforts.

As Mr. Howe prepared for another meeting on Sunday with South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha, a senior official in his party told reporters:

"It is clear to Sir Geoffrey now that if the logjam is to be broken, key steps have got to come from the South African government."

"In Sir Geoffrey's view, it is not his mission that is in trouble. It is South African society that needs salvaging."

Mr. Howe, acting on behalf of the 12-nation European Community (EC), is pressing Pretoria to release jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and to legislate banned opposition parties.

Iraq reports air raids inside Iranian territory

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq on Sunday reported three Gulf war air strikes against Iranian economic targets.

Baghdad's daily war communique said warplanes attacked a machine factory and an aluminium plant in Iran's central industrial city of Arak, leaving them ablaze.

Fire also broke out at oil facilities of Iran's main Gulf oil

terminal at Kharg Island and smoke billowed from fuel tanks in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, it added.

The Iranian capital was placed on alert for an air raid on Sunday, but there was no immediate report of an attack and no anti-aircraft fire was heard.

Sirens sounded on Tehran Radio during the alert, which lasted for 15 minutes.

Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. teams to resume Taba talks

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian, Israeli and American delegations will meet in Israel next week to resume talks on a border dispute, the Foreign Ministry and a U.S. official said Sunday.

The decision was announced following a meeting between U.S. State Department legal advisor Abraham Sofaer and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and the Egyptian delegation involved in the Taba talks, a one

square kilometre stretch of beach in the Sinai peninsula.

The last round of talks between the three delegations was held last April in Cairo. Since then, Mr. Sofaer has been engaged in a shuttle diplomacy between Egypt and Israel to try and narrow the differences between them.

Last January, Israel agreed to settle the Taba dispute through international arbitration. But the

King Hassan leaves summit chair, hands over responsibility to Klibi

RABAT (Agencies) — King Hassan II of Morocco announced on Sunday that he was quitting as Arab summit chairman following adverse reaction in some Arab states to his controversial meeting last week with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The king, who has sought to promote Arab summits for the past four years, handed over responsibility for organising the next summit to Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

In a letter to Mr. Klibi published on Sunday by the official Moroccan news agency MAP, he said he was relinquishing the job because of the "upheaval" caused in some Arab capitals by his meeting with Mr. Peres and so that Morocco would not stand in the way of the organisation of the next summit.

The last full Arab summit was held in Fez, Morocco, in 1982. The next regular annual meeting

was planned in Saudi Arabia in November 1983 but it has been postponed several times because of Arab differences.

King Hassan hosted an extraordinary summit in Casablanca last August which was boycotted by five states, including Syria and Libya as well as Algeria, South Yemen and Lebanon.

King Hassan met Mr. Peres in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifrane on Tuesday and Wednesday for discussions widely regarded as having raised a prospect of new moves to break the deadlock in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

After the Israeli leader's departure from Morocco on Wednesday, the king said in a televised address that he had terminated the talks after Mr. Peres refused to negotiate with the PLO and to withdraw from all occupied Arab land.

The most violent Arab reaction



King Hassan II

to the meeting came from Syria, which broke off diplomatic relations with Morocco.

Informed sources quoted by Reuter said Damascus was putting pressure on Libya to follow suit, but that Colonel Muammar

Qadhafi had so far resisted the pressure saying such a move should not be taken hastily.

Morocco and Libya are bound by a state union treaty signed in 1984.

Algeria has denounced the Ifrane meeting as "an outrage" against Arabs. Tunisia has not yet commented officially.

Sources close to the Moroccan government told Reuters Rabat would like the next summit to be held on "neutral ground" in Tunis, where the Arab League has its headquarters.

King Hassan tried to arrange an extraordinary summit in Fez in May following the April 15 United States air strikes on Libya but his efforts foundered when Arab foreign ministers failed to agree on either a venue or an agenda.

In a statement issued on Friday (Continued on page 3)

Israeli cabinet approves Peres' 10-point plan outlined to Hassan

Proposal includes pledge not to annex occupied lands and call for international framework for talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres presented a 10-point plan to King Hassan of Morocco, stating Israel was ready to negotiate with "authentic" Palestinian representatives for Middle East peace.

Israeli newspapers and sources quoted by news agencies, disclosing the plan, said it included an undertaking by Israel not to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip before or during peace negotiations.

The plan also called for an international framework for direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Israel's coalition cabinet gave its blessing on Sunday to the Peres pledge that Israel would not annex the occupied territories and would seek dialogue with Palestinians.

A communique issued after the weekly three-hour session said the government "expressed its satisfaction over the meeting in Morocco and its support for the

continuation of peace efforts." Cabinet secretary Yossi Beilin declined comment on King Hassan's resignation as standing chairman of Arab summit conferences. King Hassan said he resigned because of hostile reaction to his meeting last week with Mr. Peres.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein called it "a setback in the sense that you see moderates succumbing to the pressure of the radical elements." But Mr. Rubinstein added that he doesn't "think King Hassan will be deterred from continuing this dialogue he started."

Beilin told reporters that the 25-member cabinet unanimously approved the 10-point document that Mr. Peres gave King Hassan outlining Israeli positions on key issues including Palestinian representation in peace talks.

In the document, Mr. Peres pledged that Israel would not annex the West Bank or Gaza

Strip until the question of sovereignty would be resolved by negotiations, Beilin told reporters. Mr. Peres also vowed in the document to seek dialogue with "authentic" Palestinian representatives. Beilin said government policy ruled out meetings with members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The paper also said Israel would safeguard free access to holy sites under its rule, as exists today, sources quoted by Reuter said. Other points included calling for a "year of peace negotiation," the renunciation of violence by partners in talks and a general development plan for the Middle East.

In a post-summit broadcast, King Hassan said he had terminated the talks because Mr. Peres refused to negotiate with the PLO or withdraw from all Israeli-occupied land.

(Continued on page 3)

Mubarak receives Israeli message

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres concerning last week's meeting between the Israeli leader and Morocco's King Hassan II, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Mr. Bassiouny met with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, but declined to speak to reporters and no further information on the content of the message was available.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mubarak reiterated his praise for the Hassan-Peres meeting, saying Egypt supports any efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. In comments to reporters carried by the Middle East News Agency, Mr. Mubarak did not comment on the undecisive outcome of the summit.

Following the meeting, King Hassan said that Mr. Peres had rejected his demand that Israel negotiate directly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and refused to discuss the status of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

"Egypt supports any initiative and I have repeatedly said that we support any step which may lead to a comprehensive settlement for the (Palestinian) cause and bring peace to the region," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying.

Hindawi and Soviet envoy discuss Mideast, arms race

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Acting Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Touqan Al Hindawi Sunday held talks with Deputy Director of the Middle East "ad North Africa Desk at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Victor Posuvanov, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, said the talks covered the

exchange of viewpoints regarding issues of mutual interest, especially the current situation in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, disarmament and other international issues. The talks also covered coordination on topics to be discussed in the forthcoming 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Both parties exchanged viewpoints about main topics of mutual concern to be discussed and stressed the need for further

(Continued on page 3)

Murphy praises Syrian role in freeing Jenco

TEL AVIV (R) — A senior U.S. official on Sunday praised Syria's role in the release of American priest Lawrence Jenco, freed by his Lebanese kidnappers on Saturday after 18 months in captivity.

But the official, accompanying U.S. Vice-President George Bush to Israel, said Syria faced problems in gaining the release of other American hostages in Lebanon from a "very small, very fanatical group" and it should not be assumed a breakthrough had been achieved.

"Those of us who have watched and followed the Syrian efforts over the last two years plus have not questioned their interest in getting them out, but have been forced to conclude they don't have the capacity and the ability to reach that," he said.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told reporters he assumed that Terry Waite, a special envoy of Britain's archbishop of Canterbury, had also played a role in obtaining Father Jenco's release, ascribed to his deteriorating health.

Mr. Murphy noted that the videotape Father Jenco was carrying of fellow hostage David Jacobson still called for the release of family members of extremists jailed in Kuwait.

"From the beginning this group's focus has been on their relatives," he said.

Father Jenco, 51, arrived at a U.S. air base in Frankfurt Sunday on his way back to the United States. (See page 2).

Asked about the angry tone of Mr. Jacobson's video message to the U.S. government, Mr. Murphy replied: "I think that anybody that's been held as long and under conditions of deprivation that they have is going to feel that nobody is working for them — that they have been abandoned. That should not surprise us."

"There has been a constant effort to pursue their safety and release through every channel open to us. That he does not know about that is not a surprise to us."

But Mr. Murphy said it remained U.S. policy not to negotiate or compromise with extremists.

Bush pledges efforts for 'true peace' in Mideast

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush, arriving Sunday at the start of a 10-day round of talks with Israeli and Arab leaders, pledged Sunday that "we in America will do all we can to help bring true peace to the Middle East."

Mr. Bush has not ruled out the possibility he will try to follow up on last week's summit between Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan II. At a welcoming ceremony, he said the meetings "captured the imagination of everybody" in the United States.

Addressing Mr. Peres directly, Mr. Bush said: "Just this last week in your mission to Morocco you have shown again your dedication to peace. I can't think of any better time to have come here to say once again that we in America will do all we can to help bring true peace to the Middle East."

In his welcoming remarks, the Israeli prime minister said Mr. Bush had "played a critical role in the search for peace."

After three days of talks and sightseeing, Mr. Bush will fly to Jordan and then to Egypt, before his scheduled departure for Washington on Aug. 5.

During his flight from Frankfurt, West Germany, where he made an overnight stop at Rhein Main airbase, Mr. Bush reiterated to reporters that he has no plan to extend his tour to Morocco but did not rule out the possibility.

Asked whether he wanted to go to Morocco, the vice president said: "It is not a question of wanting to. It is a question of whether it would be constructive thing to do, and others will decide that."

Marlon Fitzwater, the vice president's press secretary, said on Saturday that Mr. Bush would decide after conferring with Mr. Peres, and with King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Air Force Two, carrying the vice-president, landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport amid heavy security. Crack Israeli border police in full battle dress ringed the tarmac as police helicopters circled overhead.

Mr. Bush was greeted by Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. He was accompanied by U.S. Middle East special envoy Richard Murphy, an assistant secretary of state.

Mr. Bush is scheduled to meet Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and visit Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Aboard the vice president's plane were several Jewish businessmen.

Mr. Bush said at the welcoming ceremony that ties between Israel and the United States "are better than ever before," with both countries cooperating on over 350 scientific projects.

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Jenco heads for home with high hopes for other captives

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — American priest Lawrence Jenco, freed by his Islamic Jihad kidnappers after 18 months, headed home Sunday saying he had high hopes for three other U.S. hostages still in captivity in Lebanon.

Jenco, 51, left Syria for a U.S. air base in Frankfurt, West Germany, on his way back to the United States.

In a departure statement, he said: "I have high hopes for the release of my three friends and fellow prisoners and other hostages."

U.S. officials said Jenco was held with three other American hostages — Associated Press reporter Terry Anderson, Beirut's American Hospital Director David Jacobson and American University of Beirut agricultural expert Thomas Sutherland.

The secret Islamic Jihad (holy war) group said last October it had killed one other American hostage, William Buckley, a Syrian security officer at the U.S. embassy, as a spy. No body was found.

Jenco was released in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon Saturday, taken to Damascus by Syrian security men and handed over to the U.S. embassy.

The balding, white-bearded ex-hostage said he was well and pleased to be going home. He looked forward to seeing his family and relatives.

He thanked all those who helped bring about his release and said he was deeply grateful for the statement made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Reagan, in a statement from White House Saturday night, warned Jenco's Islamic Jihad captors he would hold them responsible for the safety of the other hostages.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group of Muslim extremists said it was freeing Jenco as a goodwill gesture because of his deteriorating health.

The group warned: "This will be our last initiative... the consequences will be grave if our demands are not met."

Jenco was seen off by two Syrian officials and American Ambassador William Eagleton when he boarded a special U.S. Air Force plane which had flown in Saturday night from Frankfurt.

He was accompanied on the plane by the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Terry Waite.

Mr. Waite, who arrived in Damascus Saturday night, had previously undertaken mediation missions to try to free the hostages.

Jenco, head of the Catholic Relief Services charity in Beirut when abducted by gunmen on Jan. 8 last year, said he needed time to pray and reflect on events of the last two days.

"I ask all those who are here today, and watching from afar, to give me this time and peace," he said.

The former hostage expressed thanks "to those in the Syrian government... who received me warmly yesterday."

Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, who initially met Jenco, pledged that his country would continue efforts to free 17 other foreigners still missing in Lebanon.

They include eight French nationals, two Britons, an Italian, an Irishman and a South Korean.

The Roman Catholic priest brought with him a seven-minute videotape made by fellow American captive David Jacobson.

On the tape, Jacobson, 55, criticizes the U.S. government for refusing to negotiate with the kidnappers and says unless it does, "our release will be death."

Jacobson said in a videotape made in captivity that he feels "like one of Custer's men" and noted "you know the end of their stories. Pray that ours will have a happier ending."

Gen. George Armstrong Custer, a hero of the American Civil War, and his command of some 250 men were massacred by Sioux warriors under Chief Sitting Bull and Chief Crazy Horse in the battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876.

Jacobson, 55, of Huntington Beach, California apparently was using the reference to Custer to indicate that time may be running out for the captives who have been held between 13 and 16 months in Lebanon.

Jacobson appealed to the American public to pressure Washington to negotiate for the remaining captives.

Islamic Jihad said it will free the Americans if Kuwait released 17 of their comrades convicted in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies in December, 1983.

Kuwait refuses and President Ronald Reagan's administration has repeatedly stressed it will not negotiate with the kidnappers.

Islamic Jihad, a Shiite Muslim fundamentalist faction, has been linked to Iran's Islamic regime. Kuwait supports Arab Iraq against Iran in the six-year-old Gulf war.

Jacobson, wearing glasses and sitting in front of a microphone, spoke calmly and earnestly about his captivity and his fellow hostages.

Anderson was kidnapped in Beirut on March 6 last year and Sutherland on June 9 last year.

Jacobson's voice broke slightly when he said that another American hostage, diplomat William Buckley, 57, had been "executed" by his captors because Washington refuses to negotiate.

Islamic Jihad claimed last October that Buckley, a political officer at the U.S. embassy in Beirut, was killed in retaliation for alleged U.S. complicity in an Israeli Air strike against the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) headquarters in Tunis.

The kidnappers produced blurred photographs of what they said was Buckley's body. But until

now they have not produced a corpse.

Jacobson said he, Anderson and Sutherland, who have been held together with Jenco since last fall, will be released only when the U.S. government meets the conditions laid down by their captors.

Jacobson said he did not know what the conditions are, but "Father Jenco has been given instructions for our government."

On the tape, Jacobson appealed to Americans to contact the White House and the State Department to urge the Reagan administration to negotiate for the release of the hostages.

He also urged Congress to investigate the "quiet diplomacy" approach pursued by the administration. He said it "was better to have an investigation than to have an inquest."

He criticized Reagan for being subservient to a political principle that the U.S. will not negotiate with terrorists.

Jacobson said he was happy that Jenco had been freed. But he noted that "our release will be death" unless Washington opens negotiations with Islamic Jihad.

Pope blesses Jenco

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Sunday gave his blessing to an American priest released after 19 months' captivity in Lebanon, a Vatican spokesman said.

The Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, "sent a telegram in the Pope's name" to the Rev. Lawrence Jenco in Damascus, said Monsignor Giulio Nicolini, the spokesman.

"We hope it arrived in time" in Damascus, said Nicolini.

"His Holiness prays that the Lord sustain you with his strength and confirms you in the peace of Christ. With fraternal affection, he sends you his apostolic blessing," the text of the telegram read.

Nicolini said the telegram was sent to the Papal Nuncio's residence in Damascus.

Relatives of hostages heartened by Jenco's release

NEW YORK (AP) — Relatives of Americans still being held in Lebanon by Shiite Muslims said they were heartened by the radical group's release Saturday of the Rev. Lawrence Jenco after 19 months of captivity.

"Just seeing him and seeing that he's alive gives me faith that my dad is ok and that he's going to come out of this too," said Paul Jacobson, son of David Jacobson, 55, who was kidnapped in Lebanon 14 months ago.

"There's no way to know what's going to happen regarding my dad, how long it's going to take, what it will take to get him out," Jacobson said from his home in Upland, California. "But seeing Reverend Jenco and seeing the type of spirits he's in, his mental state, certainly gave me a big boost."

Jenco, 51, a Roman Catholic priest from Joliet, Illinois, was released in apparent good health. On his arrival in Damascus, Syria, he embraced Peggy Say, who had travelled to the Middle East to try to win the freedom of her brother, Terry Anderson.

"This is a happy day for all who have worked on this humanitarian effort... I'm excited and pleased for his family and I hope all the other hostages will be freed soon," Mrs. Say said.

Anderson, 38, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

Jenco told U.S. officials in Damascus he had been in contact with Anderson, Jacobson, and Thomas Sutherland, 55, who was kidnapped on June 9, 1985. All are being held by Islamic Jihad (holy war).

"It is just a beautiful ending to a very sad story," said Brother Gregory Atherton, provincial secretary of the western province of the Servite Order, of which Jenco was a member.

Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor of New York, who travelled to Lebanon in an effort to win freedom for the hostages, "expressed his prayerful gratitude to Almighty God for the safe return of Father Jenco to his family and religious community," according to a statement read by the archdiocese.

Meanwhile a senior Reagan administration official said Sunday the United States still had some time to seek the release of three American hostages held in Lebanon.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, spoke aboard the U.S. Air Force plane carrying Vice President George Bush to Israel at the start of a 10-day Middle East tour. He made his comments in reaction to a videotape message from one of the hostages, David Jacobson, who warned of grave consequences if the U.S. government did not obtain the hostages' freedom.

Ozal faces tough talks in Moscow

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, due to fly to Moscow Monday for an official visit, faces tough talks with Soviet leaders on the Cyprus problem and economic issues, officials in Ankara said.

They said Mr. Ozal's five-day visit, during which he will meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, was to have taken place later this year, but was brought forward at Moscow's request.

It comes amid some strain in political relations, despite a steady expansion in bilateral trade, the officials added.

Mr. Ozal is expected to explain why Turkey disapproves of Moscow's proposal for an international conference on Cyprus when he meets Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Turkey, the only nation to recognize a breakaway Turkish-Cypriot republic in north Cyprus, believes Greek and Turkish Cypriots should be left to solve the island's problems.

Mr. Ozal is also likely to discuss

Turkey's grievances against Warsaw Pact member Bulgaria. Turkey accuses Sofia of oppressing its ethnic Turkish minority by a policy of forced assimilation.

However, the Turkish leader is not expected to seek direct Soviet help in persuading Bulgaria to open negotiations on the issue, the officials said.

Soviet trade with Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), totalled \$410 million last year and is set to expand under a 1986-90 trade agreement.

A big boost will come next year when Turkey takes its first deliveries of Soviet natural gas. It will buy 1.5 billion cubic metres in 1987, with volumes projected to rise eventually to five or six billion cubic metres.

One economic issue Turkey plans to raise during this week's talks is the Soviet Union's 1983 declaration of a 200-mile economic zone in the Black Sea bordering the two countries.

Ankara contends that the zone deprived Turkish fishermen of their traditional catch of turbot and says a 100-tonne annual quota Moscow granted them recently is too small.

Mr. Ozal will be accompanied on his trip by Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and Finance Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Altinok, as well as a group of Turkish businessmen.

Sharir named Modat's successor

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli cabinet appointed a new justice minister on Sunday six days after Prime Minister Shimon Peres forced the resignation of Yitzhak Modat from the post.

The portfolio went to Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir, of Mr. Modat's liberal wing of the right-wing Likud bloc, a cabinet communiqué said.

Hostage's sister campaigns to have him freed

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Peggy Say, sister of kidnapped American reporter Terry Anderson, was chatting in the hotel lobby the other day when a Syrian reporter rushed up and pointed out a Lebanese political leader who had just walked in.

Mrs. Say immediately walked over and introduced herself.

"I'm here in Damascus to see what I can do to find my brother who was kidnapped in Beirut," she explained. "I'd be very grateful for any help you can give me when you get back to Lebanon."

The visiting politician, Suhel Hamadah of the Arab Democratic Party, assured her that he would do everything he could on behalf of Anderson and the other American hostages in Lebanon.

Mrs. Say, a 45-year-old housewife from Batavia, New York, thanked Mr. Hamadah and pressed him for any message or photo of her brother he might come across. He promised to do everything he could to help and graciously bade farewell.

The hotel encounter was typical of Mrs. Say's crusade to get her brother freed after 16 months in captivity.

Mrs. Say's efforts with the Syrians, the main power brokers in war-divided Lebanon, took a big boost Saturday when the kidnappers of the Shiite Muslim Islamic Jihad (holy war) freed Anderson's fellow captive, the Rev. Lawrence Jenco, 51, of Joliet, Illinois.

The pro-Iranian group has demanded the release of 17 comrades convicted in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in 1983. Kuwait refuses.

During her week in Damascus, Mrs. Say has worked the lobby of the Sheraton, buttonholing visiting Lebanese political and military representatives, Syrian government officials and journalists.

To each, the message is the same: She's visiting the Middle East to carry out promises she

made to her father and her other brother on their deathbeds earlier this year: that she would find Terry.

Anderson, 38, the chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, was kidnapped, like other Americans, in Muslim west Beirut.

Mrs. Say has no illusions she'll return home with her brother. Instead, she says she hopes that her person-to-person campaign somehow will "get word through to Terry that we haven't forgotten him, that I pray for him every day, that I'm proud of all he has done and that he should never lose hope or faith that, someday, we'll be back together again."

Mrs. Say also has taken her campaign to the high councils of the Syrian government. She has met Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass, Information Minister Yassin Rajouh and Foreign Ministry officials.

Her theme has been that she appreciates anything that Syria can do for her brother and the other captives.

She is also carrying letters addressed to Syrian President Hafez Assad from the families of the hostages, thanking him for his efforts a year ago that helped free American hostages held by Shiite gunmen who hijacked a TWA airliner to Beirut.

She has also met with the spokesmen of Palestinian groups, including a cordial session Saturday with Khaled Al Fabbum, a former president of the Palestine National Council who is now at odds with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Her 16-month-old campaign on behalf of the American hostages has often been buffeted by the ever-changing political currents in the volatile Middle East.

A shadow suddenly loomed over the mission to Damascus when it was disclosed last Tuesday that Morocco's King Hassan II was hosting a secret summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Syria, Israel's main Arab

enemy, swiftly broke off relations with Morocco.

Mrs. Say, pressed by reporters on how her visit might be affected by this international political bombshell, responded that her "purpose is a humanitarian one that transcends politics and goes beyond governments."

Therefore, she said she did not see any connection between U.S.-Syrian relations and her brother's freedom.

Just getting a visa to visit Syria seemed to her to be wrapped up in political considerations. Mrs. Say noted that she had to wait 14 months for her visa.

It was granted after Margaret Papandreou, wife of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, invited her to Greece two weeks ago to talk about the hostages. The American-born Mrs. Papandreou had earlier met with Mr. Assad to discuss the hostage issue.

Later, the Greek government, which has close ties with Syria, asked Syrian officials to allow Mrs. Say to visit Damascus in her quest for Anderson.

One of the emotional peaks of her trip was visiting the Lebanese border, 40 kilometres east of Damascus. But she did not cross the frontier.

She said she had promised her husband David that she wouldn't go into Lebanon during her three-hour visit to the border. But it was a poignant reminder that somewhere across the mountains her brother is being held hostage.

She says she finds Syrian officials "friendly, sympathetic and reassuring."

Her approach to them is the same straightforward attitude she's developed over months of transporting U.S. officials in Washington.

Mrs. Say, a former social worker among migrant workers in Florida, confronts them with disarming candor. But she puts them at ease by making clear she doesn't hold them responsible for the chaos in Lebanon or Anderson's disappearance.

Islamic Jihad — A thorn in flesh of Western governments

BEIRUT (R) — Islamic Jihad, which has freed American hostage Lawrence Jenco after 18 months' captivity in Lebanon, has tormented Western governments since it began claiming suicide bombings and kidnaps three years ago.

It emerged in 1983, claiming responsibility for blowing up the American embassy and the headquarters of U.S. Marines and French paratroops in west Beirut that year, killing 362 people.

Little is known of the group's size, leadership or sources of finance and its claims, sometimes conflicting, come in anonymous telephone calls or typed statements to the media.

In mid-May, it warned the United States, France and unnamed Arab states not to

pressure Syria to seek the release of foreign captives, saying the hostages would be the first victims.

The warning came a month after the murder in Lebanon of two kidnapped Britons and an American in reprisal for U.S. air raids on Libya in which British-based jets took part.

The American was Peter Kilburn, 61, a librarian at the American University. Islamic Jihad had claimed his kidnap 16 months before, but then dropped his name from its communiqués.

One explanation for secrecy surrounding the group is that Islamic Jihad may mask several groups inspired by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic militancy and hostility to the West.

Iran and Syria, which has influence with many armed factions in Lebanon, have both denied any links with the kidnappers.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has pledged to do all he can to free some 17 foreigners still missing in Lebanon, but says he has to deal with around 40 separate groups there.

He told U.S. Congressman Robert Dornan, in Damascus last month to plead for Syrian help in releasing U.S. hostages, that the groups all acted like "miniature governments."

Mr. Assad indicated that anger with U.S. Middle Eastern policy and support for Israel deterred the captors from showing mercy.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam this month

denied any hostages were held in Syrian-held areas of Lebanon, which include the Bekaa Valley where Jenco appeared Saturday.

The Bekaa, like Beirut's southern suburbs, is a stronghold for pro-Iranian Shiite militias like Hizbollah (Party of God) which shares Islamic Jihad's ideology.

Shiite cleric Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, influential with Hizbollah, said this week the suburbs held no Western captives. He has dismissed Islamic Jihad as a "telephone organisation."

It first hit headlines on April 4, 1983, when a suicide bomber destroyed the U.S. embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people.

The following Oct. 23, suicide bombers flattened headquarters of the U.S. Marines and French paratroopers.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111

PROGRAMME ONE
17:00 News
17:30 Cartoons
17:45 News
18:15 Bill Cosby
18:30 Animals in Action
18:45 Local programme
19:05 News programme
19:35 News in Arabic
20:05 Arabic Series
21:05 Documentary
21:35 Varieties
22:05 Local comedy
22:30 News summary in Arabic
22:45 Varieties programme

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Episodes of tele-serials
18:15 News in French
18:30 Magazine Sport
18:45 News in English
19:05 Living Tomorrow
19:30 News in Arabic
20:05 Growing Pains
20:15 Movie
21:05 News in English
22:30 Crown Court

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& party on 95.60 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Pop Session
10:00 News in English
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BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

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VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

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WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre - 64471
British Cultural Centre - 641520
French Cultural Centre - 6361478
German Cultural Centre - 637003
Greek Cultural Centre - 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre - 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre - 224049
Turkish Cultural Centre - 639777
Hays Arts Centre - 659195
Hamas Youth City - 6671816
Y.W.C.A. - 644723
Y.W.M.C.A. - 644251
American Medical Library - 63711
University of Jordan Library - 843553

SERVICE CLUBS
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Airport, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Joliet Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Joliet Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
St. Basil Church (Roman Catholic) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
Joliet Amman Church (Greek Orthodox) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
Church of the Redeemer (Greek Orthodox) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
American Church (Church of the Redeemer) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
St. Ignace Church (Syrian Orthodox) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
Joliet Amman Church (Greek Orthodox) Joliet Amman, Tel. 637440.
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Joliet Amman Church (Greek Orthodox) J

Fayez, Pakistani parliamentarians discuss Mideast peace efforts, Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Pakistani parliamentary delegation said Sunday that his country was concerned with finding a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem which he described as "the most important issue for Muslims and Arabs and an issue which has a special religious status for Muslims around the world."

Mr. Saifur Rahman Juyay, who is deputy speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly, said that Pakistan appreciates His Majesty King Hussein's efforts for solving this problem and safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Mr. Juyay was speaking during a meeting with Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, in the presence of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation and members of the Lower House of Parliament. He said that Pakistan was deeply concerned over the continuing Gulf war and he appealed to Muslim countries to step up their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Pakistan, he said, is willing to take part in efforts with other Islamic countries to find a solution to the war.

Mr. Juyay also said Pakistan is willing to take part in current efforts for ending differences among Arab countries and suggested that an Arab committee entrusted with carrying out this task be expanded to include Islamic delegations. Pakistan supports the idea of establishing an Islamic parliamentary union,

similar to other groupings around the world, he continued.

For his part Mr. Fayez explained current efforts exerted by King Hussein to re-establish solidarity among Arab countries to enable the Arabs to find a proper means for resolving the Palestine issue. Mr. Fayez also reviewed developments of the Palestine problem and current Arab and international efforts for finding a just solution to the issue through an international conference.

Mr. Fayez, who is chairman of the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union and heads a pan-Arab committee for ending differences among Arab states, explained his committee's mission and his visits to Syria within the committee's endeavours. He also voiced hope that Pakistan and other Islamic nations would contribute towards ending the Gulf war and persuading Iran to accept peace bids.

The visiting Pakistani delegation extended an invitation to Mr. Fayez to visit Pakistan at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation.

The Pakistani delegation earlier met with Mr. Tayseer Touqan, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, who spoke about the Palestine problem, Iran-Iraq war and underlined the importance of solidarity among Islamic nations. Mr. Touqan also discussed the subject of Israel's inhuman practices against the Palestinian people and its Judaisation of holy places and Arab land.



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez Sunday holds talks with a delegation of Pakistani parliamentarians on current developments in the region (Petra photo)

Fifth Jerash festival nets profit of JD 10,000, draws 100,000 visitors

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Fifth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, held between July 9 and 19, has been a great success and approximately 100,000 people visited the Greco-Roman city to watch and enjoy the cultural and folkloric events staged during the festival. Ministry of Information Under Secretary and the director of the festival Michael Hamameh announced Sunday.

Addressing a press conference held at the Royal Cultural Centre to sum up the results of the festival, Mr. Hamameh said at the conclusion of the events, the organisers found that a profit of JD 10,000 had been made from collecting fees to the performances. Last year, 120,000 people were said to have visited the festival, which lasted 14 days.

Local folklore

By organising this festival as an annual event, Jordan aims at promoting culture in the Kingdom and helping to encourage interactions between various cultures of the world, Mr. Hamameh said. He went on to say that the festival opened the door for local folk art to play a more significant role in national culture.

In the coming years, Jordan hopes to choose the best among its national folk and art groups to



present them at the festival, because it aims at raising the standard of this festival to assume an international level. Mr. Hamameh continued. He also stressed the importance of establishing a special government agency to supervise the organisation and running of the Jerash festival in the future.

The festival's successful experience over the past years has prompted the concerned authorities to contemplate new measures for promoting the event and the national committee has benefited from past mistakes, the festival director continued.

Mr. Hamameh said he hoped the festival will in the future become richer with national folk dances and plays which normally reflect the culture of a nation. Referring to the book exhibition, he said that it was visited by some 22,000 people, 60 per cent of whom bought books.

With regard to foreign folk troupes, Mr. Hamameh said their selection depends on agreements concluded earlier between Jordan

and the respective foreign countries. The festival's administration has provided financial assistance to the participating local troupes, with the aim of supporting their activities, but Jordanians ought to give stronger support and encouragement to local troupes who reflect their national culture, Mr. Hamameh added.

"For the festival to continue and to thrive, we ought to find a proper source of income, not from government departments, to finance its events. Rather, national organisations, banks and other businesses and financial and cultural institutions should contribute towards covering the costs of the event, Mr. Hamameh said.

Planning ahead

He went on to say that the national committee for the Jerash festival has already embarked on preparations for the 1987 festival and a group representing the city of Jerash, led by its mayor, has been included in the committee to join in the task of preparing for the events.

Furthermore, he said, the committee has made preparations for including folk troupes in next year's events and these will come from China, the Soviet Union, the United States and other friendly nations.

International society supports neurological centre in Amman

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mr. Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to negotiate the release of American hostages in Lebanon, who was scheduled to hold a press conference in Amman on Sunday left for Syria earlier in the day. Mr. Waite was reported to have accompanied Reverend Lawrence Jenko, who was released from nineteen months of captivity in Lebanon, to Frankfurt en route to the United States.

Mr. Waite arrived in Amman last Wednesday as a member of an international board of the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients to look into possibilities of supporting the new neurological centre, which is due to begin operations in the middle of next year. Mr. Eugene Douglas, former U.S. ambassador at large, and Mr. Peter Escott, a business consultant, are also on the society's international board and accompanied Mr. Waite to Jordan.

Mr. Douglas, who is now a businessman, explained at a press

conference on Sunday that he will support the neurological centre by raising funds from the United States as part of efforts to establish a new network of contacts between his country and Jordan.

Mr. Escott is also concerned with helping the centre to stand on its own feet by coordinating fund-raising efforts with the help of Mr. Waite. He said he will approach companies in England for the centre in Amman, and that brochures on the subject are being prepared.

Dr. Nasri Khoury, a neurosurgeon and initiator of the project, said that two donations totalling JD 40,000 have already been made to the society for the centre. He said that the society hopes to raise JD 2 million in donations in order to assist 500 needy neurological patients at the centre yearly. He added: "The concept of the fund introduces a new dimension to medical practice in Jordan. Through it, it is hoped that many needy sufferers, despite their nationality and religion, would find alleviation, comfort, and cure."

13 Arab countries to take part in sixth children's conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thirteen Arab countries, in addition to Jordan, will take part in this year's Sixth Arab Children's Conference, due to open in Amman on Aug. 5 for seven days, according to an official announcement by the Queen Noor Foundation which is organising the event.

The announcement was made at the end of a meeting held by a committee charged with preparing for the conference. Oman, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Bahrain, Egypt, North Yemen, Kuwait, Algeria, Sudan, Qatar, Syria and Morocco in addition to Jordan,

will be sending children's delegations to the conference, together with their supervisors, the announcement said.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Mrs. In'am Al Mufid, the director general of the fund, reviewed final arrangements for the conference which is held annually to enable Arab children to have an idea about Jordan's development.

The conference aims at focusing on the conditions of Arab children and will also direct attention to the need for providing more care to Arab youngsters in all fields.

King Hassan leaves Arab summit chairmanship

(Continued from page 1)

on the Ifrane meeting, Mr. Klibi called for an urgent Arab summit, but passed no judgement on the Moroccan-Israeli talks.

In his letter to Mr. Klibi, King Hassan said he was handing over the Arab summit chairmanship to the league secretary general until another Arab head of state could take over.

On Wednesday the PLO called for an urgent summit meeting, suggesting Algeria as a venue. Moroccan sources said it was most unlikely that a majority of the 21 Arab League members would agree to go to Algeria for the conference.

The final Hassan-Peres communiqué said the king would explain the results of the Ifrane talks to all Arab heads of state, and officials in Rabat said special envoys would leave soon for Arab capitals.

The officials said one of the first envoys would go to Tripoli and reveal certain aspects of the talks, notably so far undisclosed proposals which the king said Mr. Peres made.

The king's letter to Mr. Klibi said: "I have the honour of informing you that in view of the upheavals caused, in some Arab capitals, by our meeting with the Israeli prime minister, we have decided to end our presidency of the Arab summit conference so that Morocco would not be an obstacle — either because of this presidency or as host country — in the way to holding the next Arab summit."

"In taking this decision, we entrust you with this responsibility ... until it can be transferred as soon as possible to one of our brother kings or heads of Arab states," it said.

Meanwhile, Morocco's minister of state described the Hassan-Peres talks as a long-term success and an historic turning point despite the king's initial gloomy assessment of the meeting.

In interviews with two Israeli newspapers, Davar and the English-language Jerusalem Post, Minister of State Moshe Alon said: "There is from now on without a doubt a substantive and psychological change in

relations between Israel and the Arab states.

"The first achievement is in the very fact that the meeting took place, and that it took place in public for all the world to see. For me, this is an historic turning point."

But Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali, also interviewed by the Israeli newspapers, was less positive about the summit.

"We thought the Israelis were ready to take a step towards the Palestinians. In any event, we feel that it was necessary to do what we did ... that is to start a dialogue."

Mr. Filali said Israel must be less intransigent if it wants to achieve peace.

He said the most positive outcome of the meeting was that Mr. Peres understood the fundamentals of the 1982 Fez Arab summit plan which Israel has always opposed.

The Fez plan calls for the withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Israeli cabinet approves Peres' plan

(Continued from page 1)

The promise not to annex the occupied territories could anger right-wingers in Israel's nine-party coalition government who oppose any "territorial concession."

A joint communiqué issued on Thursday after the two-day summit said Mr. Peres had "put forth propositions pertaining to conditions he deems necessary for the installation of peace," but gave no details.

The 10-point document appeared to leave open a possibility for Israeli negotiations with Palestinians approved by the PLO. "The paper does not refer specifically to whom the Palestinians should be," Berlin said.

Berlin said Mr. Peres' report and the cabinet discussion lasted an hour and triggered no criticism from right-wing governing partners.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister and right-wing Likud bloc leader Yitzhak Shamir said the document "contained, on the surface, no deviations from government policy."

"The Likud doesn't

recommend annexing the territories before peace negotiations. But in the negotiations we would argue that these lands are part of the historic land of Israel," spokesman Yossi Ahimeir told AP in a telephone interview.

"Israel is willing to conduct negotiations with Arab representatives and among them Palestinians who strive for peace and reject violence and terror," the Israeli document was quoted as stating by the daily Maariv newspaper.

Moroccan-born Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, a leading member of the Likud bloc which shares power with Mr. Peres' Labour Party, said Mr. Peres had conducted the talks in accordance with the policy of Israel's "national unity" government.

After the three-hour cabinet session Israel Radio quoted Labour Party minister Ezer Weizman as saying he would meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat if the PLO implicitly recognised Israel, and renounced "terrorism."

Mr. Weizman, who played a prominent role in negotiating the Israeli-Egyptian treaty of 1979, was quoted from talks with Israeli Arabs.

Universities will continue to be independent, Assad says

Amendment to higher education law does not mean government interference, minister tells press conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior government official Sunday denied reported links between a recent amendment to the 1985 law on higher education with government plans to tighten its grip over the affairs of Jordan's universities.

The amendment, which was made on Thursday by the Lower House of Parliament, called for the transfer of authority from the Council of Higher Education to the minister of higher education in issues related to realising government policies on higher education in Jordan's universities.

The amendment to the 1985 law was needed since "the modified article clashed with the ministry's constitutional rights of the ministry," Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad, said during a press conference held on Sunday.

The ministry was established in April 1985 to execute the government's educational and cultural policies in higher education institutions and universities. The 1985 law stipulates that the ministry may achieve its goals through comprehensive planning for higher education, supporting the independence of higher education institutions, concluding agreements with Arab and foreign countries for cooperation in higher education, accrediting non-Jordanian universities and their respective certificates as well as organising manpower planning and the inflow and outflow of students, researchers and professors in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

The modification to the law removed article B number four which said: "All decisions and legislation related to achieve the ministry's goals are taken by the council for higher education if they concern Jordanian universities."

"This amendment does not mean that I am authorised to break into any of the Jordanian universities. I refuse to forcefully enter their campuses or to interfere in their external affairs. I shall remain the guard who moves around their surrounding walls," Dr. Assad said, indicating that the ministry will not interfere in the institution's domestic issues but rather will supervise the implementation of the

government's policies on higher education.

Legal clarification

"Legally speaking, there should be no higher authority than the minister himself and constitutionally speaking article 4-B clashed with the ministry's legal rights," said Dr. Assad referring to the reasons behind Thursday's amendment.

Dr. Assad referred to the 15-member Council for Higher Education as the "planning body for educational policies," while the ministry is the executive side entrusted with realising the government's higher education policy.

The minister made these statements in response to criticisms by a number of deputies and educationalists who charged that the amendment will "politicise universities," subject their policies to a one man rather than the 15 council members and will eventually render their status similar to government schools."

Others said that the government was keen on having such a modification in the aftermath of the May incidents at Yarmouk University in which three students died and 15 others were injured, including policemen.

Following the incident, His Majesty King Hussein sent a letter to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai urging his government to reform higher education by stemming all loopholes in educational legislation, organisation and administration to safeguard Jordan's educational institutions.

Accrediting foreign universities

In principle, Sunday's press conference was called to release two lists of accredited higher education specialisations and universities in the U.S. and the Philippines and to launch a



Nassereddine Al Assad

preliminary ministry study on the needs of local manpower for the labour market until 1990. This was the third press conference Dr. Assad has given this year.

So far, the ministry has prepared two lists of accredited universities in the U.S. The first list included names of 1,380 higher education institutions in the U.S. whilst the second list a further 455 accredited U.S. universities. The third and fourth lists, which were released Thursday, include 430 U.S. universities taken from the first list and classified according to their accredited higher education specialisations.

The fourth list includes names of 20 accredited universities based in the Philippines. Dr. Assad said that the ministry is currently preparing another two lists on accredited universities in Turkey, Greece and Cyprus, as well as India and Pakistan.

Answering a question, Dr. Assad said the situation of all students currently studying in U.S. universities, whose certificates or specialisations have not been covered by the three lists will be subject to review once the students return to Jordan. A special committee entrusted with recognising certificates will consider their situation, Dr. Assad said.

On another issue, Dr. Assad denied that the government will ever force students to study certain specialisations to fill the gaps in certain manpower needs or in an attempt to reduce unemployment. "Our duty is to guide students to study what is needed through providing studies which reveal the local need for manpower, but we shall never force the study of certain specialisations," he said.

First convoy of pilgrims leaves for holy sites in Mecca, Medina

AMMAN (J.T.) — A celebration will be held in Amman on Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to bid farewell to the last convoy of Muslims on their way to perform this year's pilgrimage in Mecca, according to an announcement issued by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The announcement said that the first convoy of pilgrims left for the holy sites in Saudi Arabia on Sunday and that the total number of Jordanian Muslims who will be arriving there in a week's time is expected to be 14,000.

Meanwhile, pilgrims heading for Mecca from Palestinian land occupied since 1948 started arriving in the East Bank on Sunday. According to a ministry statement, a special ceremony was held to welcome the pilgrims at Ghor Nimrein, in the Jordan Valley region. The pilgrims were welcomed by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, under secretary of the ministry, and senior ministry officials.

facilities have been provided to enable the 2,731 pilgrims from the occupied territories to perform their pilgrimage and return home safely. The number of pilgrims arriving from occupied Palestine on Sunday was 963 and they were put up at a special pilgrims' camp established in the Jordan Valley and provided with all essential services.

The Ministry of Awqaf expects 1,600 pilgrims from occupied Gaza to arrive at Ghor Nimrein on Wednesday. According to the ministry announcement, a special ministry mission and health teams will be accompanying the pilgrims to Mecca and Medina to offer services and guidance during the pilgrimage.

Dr. Abbadi earlier held a series of meetings with officials and heads of missions to make final arrangements for the transportation and accommodation of pilgrims in Mecca.

Arabia during the pilgrimage season and a spokesman for the Health Ministry said the Saudi Arabian authorities cautioned pilgrims about the intense heat so that they could take precautionary measures to avoid sunstroke. The Health Ministry said that high temperatures could cause dehydration, continuous sweating, a loss of consciousness, heart failure and kidney malfunction. The ministry cautioned pilgrims against exposing themselves to intense heat and warned those with high blood pressure or diabetes to take extra precautions against the unusual climatic conditions and the uncomfortable conditions due to the presence of multitudes of worshippers near the holy sites. A ministry spokesman said that the health mission accompanying the pilgrims could give advice and offer medical assistance to those who require any help.

Intense heat

The pilgrims have been warned that temperatures will reach 50 degrees Centigrade in Saudi

Pilgrims have also been advised to cover their heads or to carry umbrellas, avoid crowds, drink liquids and take salts and to place cold water or ice on their heads and exposed parts of the body.

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Hypocrisy at its peak

THE "Captive Nations Week" celebrations are on in the United States this week and the people have been exhorted to observe the week "with appropriate ceremonies and activities to reaffirm their dedication to the international principles of justice, freedom and national self-determination." The captive nations are understood to be those nations whose "aspirations for self-determination have been crushed by the Soviet empire." They include "those of Eastern Europe that have known foreign occupation and communist tyranny for decades; those struggling to throw off communist domination in Latin America; and the people of Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, and Africa struggling against foreign invasion, military occupation, and communist oppression." It is a pity these are the nations held "captive by forces hostile to freedom, independence, and national self-determination."

Political ritualism, devoid of meaningful content, cannot but evoke universal contempt. It becomes a mere sham, particularly where state behaviour manifestly tends to contradict stated policies. But then, contemporary politics; one would say, is a tangled skein of contradictions, not amenable to easy handling. So some states stick to certain symbolic observances though they may not reflect the realities of the actual situations.

Do the people of the United States recollect that Palestine is a captive nation? Of course, it would perplex and much annoy the U.S. administration to parry with this question, for it has never wanted to address it squarely for the last forty years. Nay, the actual culprit holding Palestine as a captive nation is Israel. But why does the U.S. exclude Israel from the category of tyrannical nations, engaged in the repression of captive nations? Why doesn't the U.S. include Palestine as a captive nation whose aspirations for freedom, independence and national self-determination are being crushed by a totalitarian Zionist ideology?

When it comes to doing justice to the Palestinians all the U.S. moral lessons vanish in thin air. The whole world knows that the U.S. is morally guilty in not only not recognising the Palestinians' right to self-determination but also positively assisting Israel with money and arms to suppress and erase the Palestinian nation's identity from the Middle East. The "Captive Nations Week" provides an opportunity for the U.S. people to give serious thought to the contradictions the U.S. administration exhibits in the Middle East on the question of the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Rallying solidarity

KING Hussein's visit to Damascus represents another positive move towards rebuilding solidarity among Arab states and a bid to rescue this nation from the dangers threatening it. The Syrian-Jordanian summit infuses hope in our Arab masses that an enlarged meeting grouping the rest of the Arab leaders will be held for the sake of cementing Arab ranks and strengthening Arab stands. Consultations between the King and President Assad reflect the deep understanding between the two brotherly countries and emphasises their determination to go hand in hand along the path of progress towards achieving peace for this region. Therefore, whether U.S. Vice President George Bush visited Damascus or not during his forthcoming tour in our region, the roles of Syria and Jordan will be similar and their stands vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict will not change. At the same time, it should be emphasised that peace can be based on a stronger basis once the Arabs have achieved a strategic balance with the common enemy.

Al Dustour: Rallying Arab ranks

KING Hussein's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Assad of Syria come at a crucial moment as the Arabs are confronting mounting challenges. The King is on a noble mission, namely to end differences among Arab states for the sake of clearing the way for joint action and for strengthening Arab positions. By embarking on this mission, King Hussein is inspired by the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and by his belief in the national causes and in the need to rally Arab forces for the sake of confronting the common threats. There is no alternative to removing all differences and ending divisions among Arab states if the Arab countries are to avert further setbacks, and if they want to avoid further divisions. The King's visit to Damascus amid the current difficult circumstances the Arabs are passing through, represent a new hope for the Arab masses; and the talks they have been holding are designed to serve these masses by rebuilding solidarity among Arab countries and helping the Arabs to regain their lost territory. We hope that the Jordanian Syrian summit will fulfil the aspirations of the Arab people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Healing the rift

JORDAN and Syria have now resumed their moves aimed at consolidating their joint march towards progress and prosperity. The leaders of the two countries realise the grave problems plaguing their nation and the differences dividing one from the other. They are therefore intent on healing rifts between Arab states with a true determination and serious efforts. Solidarity has become an urgent requirement for the Arab countries in the current circumstances fraught with danger and at a crucial time that witnesses continued threats by the common enemy. Lack of solidarity among Arabs has caused a dangerous imbalance in the Middle East region, and encouraged the enemy to continue the drive to breach Arab ranks. This political vacuum in the Arab region should be filled by joint Arab action and true solidarity. King Hussein is trying hard to heal the rift between Iraq and Syria and with renewed determination he has embarked on his trip to Damascus and will continue to work relentlessly and diligently for serving Arab causes.

Snapshots from the West Bank and beyond

By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

My recent odyssey to the West Bank which ended on July 23, coincided with the "diplomatic pilgrimage" which Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has made to Morocco on July 22. The announced upshot of the Hassen-Peres summit was that King Hassan of Morocco was not able to extricate from the Israeli prime minister a pledge to withdraw from the West Bank and accept the PLO as an interlocutor in the context of a peace agreement on the basis of the 1982 Fez Arab Summit peace plan.

On my way back home from Jerusalem on July 23, and as the car carrying me was spinning down the highway in the midst of the still arid land between Jerusalem and Jericho, my mind was striving to juxtapose the conflicting mental snapshots of the "realities" existing in the land called Palestine. In bewilderment exacerbated by the smoldering heat of Jericho, I found myself repeating the question: did Peres have to go all the way to Morocco to tell us the obvious which is known by even the small children of West Bank and beyond.

My voyage to the West Bank was certainly an eye opener as I was also "dreaming" about which U.N. resolution should be invoked and accepted and which should be rejected outright or in part in the context of the quest for peace in the Middle East. I often found myself posing the remark: if only the Arab leaders could see what I saw, (and what I saw is nothing compared with what the people of the West Bank see and experience every minute of their lives), their perspectives would surely change and get closer to earth. The distance between Jerusalem and Arab capitals is only hundreds of kilometers, but it could just as well be a million in terms of the gaps between reality and myth.

So, while the Arab mind on all levels had been occupied all those past years with theoretical and academic solutions, the Israelis had been energetically and persistently creating new facts for themselves and for the Arabs in their midst; facts which appear to be irreversible, at least not reversible by U.N. resolutions whether they are of the 242 vintage or otherwise. Maybe because the landscape between

Jerusalem and Jericho is so much moonlike as to evoke in me the thought that we Arabs outside Israeli occupation could just as well be sitting on the moon as we chart our course for the resolution of our earthly conflict with Israel.

I have been told over and over again by West Bankers that in the past and during the early years of occupation if one of their compatriots was seen speaking to an Israeli, the occurrence was immediately and unmistakably construed as high treason. This had been changed. Not only Palestinians are talking to Israelis but they are talking to them in Hebrew. Likewise, more and more Israelis are roaming the West Bank and more and more of them are communicating with the Arabs in fluent Arabic. Now it is almost common experience for many Palestinian merchants to openly trade with their counterparts in Israel. The trade names on most Arab shops are now in Hebrew and street names even in Tel Aviv are also printed in Arabic. Street signs everywhere are in Hebrew and in Arabic. Arab bathers can be seen as far west as the beaches of Tel Aviv

and Haifa.

But what could be the moral of this story? Could it be that there is a determined effort to break down and dismantle the barriers which had traditionally existed between Arabs and Jews? I certainly saw signs of it everywhere during my trip to the West Bank. The barriers are certainly falling down slowly but surely, to an extent that causes alarm and apprehension on both sides of the fence. The die-hard Israelis are most fearful about the creeping integrationist tendencies and they see in them the ultimate threat to their "pure Jewish identity." Likewise, Arab nationalists are equally apprehensive about the corrosion of their Palestinian identity and the erosion of their Arab nationalism.

Often I was reminded during my trip that there was now a new Arab and Jewish generation which grew up after the 1967 war and which could serve as nucleus of greater and deeper co-existence between Arab and Jew. This emerging phenomenon has prompted a prominent Palestinian professor and columnist in Jerusalem, to write last week in an

Arab newspaper an article suggesting that the Palestinians should seek the liberation of the Palestinians rather than liberating Palestine. Dr. Nuseibeh went on to elaborate in his article that the Palestinians should seek greater freedoms and equal enjoyment of political and civil rights on par with the Israelis and should aim for full enfranchisement equal to that accorded to the Israelis. He saw in this proposition the true path to the resolution of the Palestinian case.

Of course, one would be naive to draw hard and fast conclusions from the thoughts of Dr. Nuseibeh or from the so-called realities outlined here. Yes the West Bank is now geographically linked with Israel, and there are vivid signs of attempted integration of the West Bank by Israel. But all this does not portray the whole picture. The scene in the West Bank is still basically in a state of flux and the situation is certainly fluid. There is of course the nquenehed, yearning among the Palestinians for an end to occupation. They simply yearn to return to direct

Arab rule. One hears audible voices everywhere calling for King Hussein and the PLO to act more forcefully to end the Israeli occupation.

One important thing on the side of the Arabs is the distinct feeling that I had during my trip, namely, the people of the West Bank still constitute a very heavy load on the back of the Israelis which they would like another party to assume. I believe what the Israelis would like to see happen is to have Jordan assume responsibility over the Arabs of the West Bank while the Jewish state continue to cling to the territory. I have no doubt in my mind now that the Israelis would not accept any real territorial compromises as they will insist on physical control over the land. I have been told by an eminent observer that Moshe Dayan once laboured for months trying to delineate acceptable boundaries between Israel and the West Bank. His final judgment was that that task was an impossible mission. Thus the conclusion of the Israeli establishment: to have the cake and eat it too.



Little prospect of progress on A-test ban as talks start

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON — Superpower talks on curbing nuclear testing will start in Geneva this month but prospects for a long-proposed comprehensive test ban (CTB) treaty are as dim as ever, according to U.S. officials and private experts.

Moscow has been urging a total test ban and has unilaterally refrained from testing for nearly a year. It says it will press its case for the comprehensive test ban treaty at the talks, which are to start on July 25 or soon afterwards.

However, U.S. officials, insisting that Washington is not ready for a test ban, told reporters last week that American negotiators would stress the need for better safeguards against cheating on two unratified treaties, dating from the 1970s, which limit the size of underground nuclear blasts.

The United States conducted an underground nuclear test last week at its Nevada desert test site — the 13th U.S. test since Moscow announced its freeze last summer.

Retired Admiral Gene Laque, pointing to U.S. opposition to a CTB and to its continued bomb tests, dismissed American participation in the talks as "cosmetics — window dressing." Laque, a frequent critic of Reagan administration strategic policies and who heads the liberal Centre for Defence Information, predicted there would be no movement towards a test ban during President Reagan's term in office.

James Rubin, senior analyst for the private Arms Control Association, also pointed to influence exerted on Reagan by anti-test ban officials such as Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle.

Above-ground tests, banned by the superpowers and Britain in 1963, are very hard to conceal but Reagan administration officials claim underground tests could be hidden.

Announcement of this month's talks came as a private team of

U.S. scientists began monitoring Moscow's main nuclear test site with seismological instruments set up near the site. The purpose of the project was to show that CTB compliance could be verified.

A team of Soviet scientists is expected to arrive in the United States in November to begin monitoring the Nevada test site under an exchange negotiated by the private U.S. Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) and the Soviet government.

Arms control experts such as former CIA Director William Colby say the project is a great step forward. Allowing in-country inspections was an unprecedented move for the Soviet government and it set a good precedent for arms control in general, Colby told reporters.

U.S. officials who briefed reporters on the coming talks said a CTB was a long-term U.S. goal but that compliance could not now be verified. They alleged that Moscow might cheat by concealing test explosions by setting them in large holes to muffle the blast.

However, many scientists dismiss such concerns. Frank von Hippel, an NRDC leader and Princeton University physicist who recently had talks with Soviet leaders, said seismological equipment could measure explosions well under one kiloton (equivalent to one thousand tons of TNT) even if the large-hole ruse were attempted.

Von Hippel said the Kremlin was divided on whether to resume tests when its self-imposed August 6 deadline expires.

"It's up for grabs whether the Soviets will continue the moratorium," Von Hippel told reporters. "I was told by some Soviet officials that the Soviet Union must continue testing if it is not to fall farther behind the United States."

NRDC said Moscow had retained the option to shut down the Americans' monitoring equipment if it resumed testing.

Many costs of tyranny come later

By Flora Lewis
 The New York Times

PARIS — The overthrow of several dictatorial and military regimes in recent years brings sharper focus on those remaining. There are always arguments about the danger of destroying order without delivering law and liberty when forces are gathering to topple tyrants.

Chile, South Korea and the unique case of South Africa are examples these days of confrontations where some say the aftermath of removing or profoundly reforming the regime could be as bad as or worse than current distress. The U.S. government hesitates to press for drastic change on that ground.

Nicaragua is cited as an example where ousting a dictator led to an even more authoritarian, Marxist regime and (with U.S. help) continued fighting. Haiti flails and stumbles, unable to pick itself up. The Philippines looks promising, but stability cannot yet be taken for granted. It is commonplace to observe that dictatorship is bad for practically everyone except the few to whom it offers privileges, and that it perpetrates fearful crimes and often spreads

corruption. But not enough attention is paid to the burden of the heritage. It is the vicious democrats and their long-suffering peoples who have to keep on paying for the years of their own oppression, as they try to pick up the pieces and put their countries back together.

The biggest problems faced by President Corazon Aquino in Manila and President Raul Alfonsín in Buenos Aires come from the economic destruction caused by their predecessors. The Philippines' crippling debt was the result of crony monopolies, graft and mismanagement. Argentina's was due primarily to the squandering of the nation's substance on arms and atoms by the military.

It seems unfair that the people who were not responsible for the disasters, indeed were punished for opposing what was happening, have to bear the responsibility for repayment. But they do. Debts must be honoured if the global financial system is to function, and a nation's obligations are not tied to its rulers. Perhaps the international financial institutions could show a little more understanding and make temporary distinctions, but the problem won't go away.

President Reagan has had the good fortune of being in office during this period of waning democracy in some parts of the world, notably Latin America. If any U.S. policy deserves credit for it, however, it was that of president Jimmy Carter, whose human rights activism helped provide the groundwork. It takes time for the challenges to ripen and prevail.

Meanwhile the bills pile up. This should be remembered when there are questions of what to do when undemocratic regimes now come under internal pressure. There are reasons to fear instability and new tyrannies in these countries. But weighing against them are reasons for not holding back encouragement to struggling democrats. Not only is their agony prolonged under authoritarianism. The more it lasts, the more they will have to make up for later.

The current issue of Foreign Policy magazine has some interesting discussions of factors that the United States should consider.

Former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance argues that concern for human rights is a realistic as well as idealistic yardstick for foreign policy. "The United States

must always bear in mind," he says, "that the demand for individual freedom and human dignity cannot be quelled without sowing the seeds of discord and violent convulsion. Those, supporting constructive change that enhances individual freedom is both morally right and in America's national interest."

Congressman Stephen J. Solarz concentrates on the issue of whether the United States should intervene as resistance movements develop and appeal for help. He wisely insists that there can be no global answer and that no case can set a compelling precedent for the next one.

But he offers some sound guidelines for judgment, giving full priority to clearly defined, well understood U.S. national interests. Neither anti-communism nor sympathy is a good enough reason on its own to intervene. The question should address "specifics rather than abstractions and realities instead of doctrines."

This makes sense. The spread of democracy is in the U.S. interest. Washington cannot create or impose it where it doesn't exist, or protect those whose rulers refuse it. But the cost of tyranny outlives despots, and that, too, must be in the accounting.

Peru government revives economy but erodes democracy

By Walker Simon
 Reuters

LIMA — President Alan Garcia's one-year-old government in Peru has made progress towards reviving the economy, but diplomats say it has eroded democratic freedoms in grappling with a spreading Maoist insurgency.

One year after taking office last July 28, Garcia is still banking in broad popularity for having slashed inflation by two-thirds, allowing for a modest economic recovery. Workers' real buying power has risen for the first time since 1982.

Internationally, his deft diplomacy has averted sanctions against Peru for its handling of foreign debt which limits government repayments to 10 per cent of export earnings.

His Social Democratic government has suspended most interest payments due to foreign creditors and nationalised a U.S. oil firm, worth \$400 million, without yet paying compensation.

But the 37-year-old president has faltered in failing to draw up a

counter-insurgency strategy that protects human rights while giving the military the freer hand it seeks to curb widening rebel attacks, diplomats said.

Nearly 8,000 people have lost their lives in the insurgency by guerrillas from the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and the leftist Tupac Amaru revolutionary movement since 1980.

"Garcia wants to apply Western rules to fight the guerrillas," a foreign military expert said. "But the problem is that his armed forces are not capable of surgical strikes like those of the West Germans, Italians and Israelis."

Garcia's predicament was highlighted last month when he ordered a military-led crackdown of Sendero mutinies at three Lima area jails. Hundreds of inmates, many of whom he said were defenceless, were slaughtered.

The episode ended the "honeymoon period" of Garcia's rule, diplomats said. Up until then, they said, he was confident of his positive image in the Third World and was aiming to lead the Non-Aligned Movement by

bringing its 1989 summit to Lima.

Garcia vowed to punish all those responsible for excesses in the crushing of the riots. This opened the door to possible prosecutions of members of the armed forces, fanning rumours on the danger of a coup.

Peru returned to democracy in 1980, leading South America's tilt away from military dictatorships and toward democracy.

Garcia drew swift messages of support for his democratic government from seven Latin American presidents, and Peruvian military leaders soon ruled out a coup.

"Who wants to stage a coup when Garcia is so popular?" a military source said. "All political parties, most of Latin America and the United States would denounce a military government."

Garcia drew a 74.3 per cent approval rating this month in a national poll of 1,600 people by the Datum public opinion firm.

The main reason for his popularity stems from his success in reducing inflation to about a 60 per cent annual rate, compared to the 183 per cent spiral he inherited from the right-of-centre government of President Fernando Belaunde Terry.

Workers' real income has risen

by about 15 per cent after slumping by nearly half in Belaunde's five-year rule, the economy ministry says. Economic growth has nearly doubled to an annual rate of 3.6 per cent.

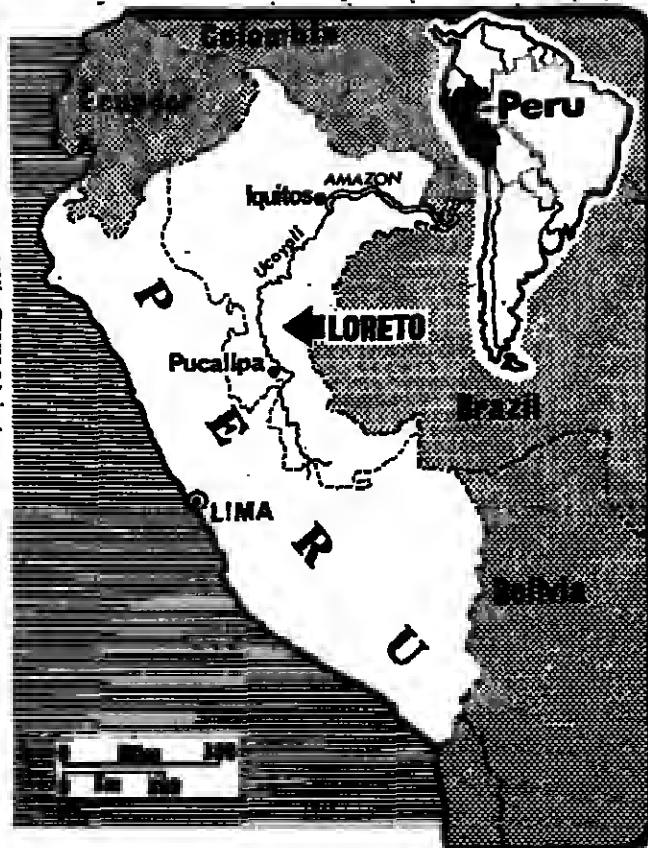
But bankers and economists question how sustainable the lower inflation rate is, because of what they call Garcia's unrealistic exchange-rate policy.

In sharp contrast to other major Latin American countries, Peru has frozen its currency's exchange rate for the past year against the U.S. dollar, vowing to keep it at the same level until December.

Met foreign reserves, once at a peak of nine months' worth of imports last March, are now shrinking at a rate of nearly \$100 million a month.

Garcia wants to keep the currency frozen against the U.S. dollar to retain low inflation rates ahead of municipal elections in November, bankers said.

The poll has taken on a disproportionate importance since it will be the last electoral test for the government before November 1989, the date of fresh municipal elections on the eve of presidential elections to replace Garcia in 1990.



LETTERS

Equal rights

To the Editors:

WITH so much talk going on about restrictions on work permits and a speedy policy to oust foreign workforce to be replaced by local manpower, has anyone given a thought to the plight of foreigners married to Jordanians? Falling in this category, being an Indian married to a Jordanian, I would like to request the concerned authorities to consider the following:

— Such persons should be given more job opportunities, than to be treated as wholly foreigners seeking employment. Since we are here, not for money-making purposes but for the sake of our spouses!

— Work permit fees for the above should be reassessed and a reasonable amount charged. This sum could be lower than that charged from other foreigners not being in this category.

After all Jordan is our homeland now and I seriously think, we should be given some concessions at least, if not many.

Mrs. Neeth Thayer
 Amman.

Early Bronze Age towns dotted the Dead Sea shores

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

The following article is the seventh in a series of articles on the archaeology of the southern Ghors. Four articles of the series appeared in last week's Jordan Times, two in the past two days, while the remaining are scheduled to appear this week.

AS you leave Ghor es-Safi and travel south towards Aqaba, you enter the Wadi 'Araba. The Wadi 'Araba is the southern extension within Jordan of the Great Rift Valley that also includes the Jordan River Valley and the Dead Sea. The Wadi 'Araba, also referred to simply as the 'Araba, is 180 kilometres long between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, and ranges in width from 10 to 20 kilometres.

From 400 metres below sea level at the Dead Sea, the land rises over the next 96 kilometres to reach an elevation of 240 metres above sea level at Ghor el-Ajram, before descending over the last 75 kilometres to sea level at Aqaba.

Feifeh

Ten kilometres south of the paved road to Safi/Tawahin es-Sukkar is the village of Feifeh, one kilometre east of the highway at the end of a paved road. It sits at the mouth of the Wadi Feifeh, which flows into the valley from the highlands near Tafila.

There are extensive ancient remains in and around Feifeh village, which Frank and Gheuck both visited in the 1930s without appreciating their full extent. The modern village of Feifeh has been built partly on a large, unexcavated tell containing an Islamic site, and probably earlier remains as well.

Pottery sherds throughout the village, particularly from the early rubbish dumps on its south side, date from the Chalcolithic/Early Bronze, Roman/Byzantine, Ottoman and Medieval Arab/Mamluk periods. The remains of an ancient mill or olive press are still preserved on the tell, next to three standing sections of ancient mud-brick walls.

Early Bronze Feifeh

About 500 metres north-east of the junction of the Feifeh road and the highway are the substantial remains of the Early Bronze Age walled town that existed at the

same time as the other EB sites studied by the team headed by Drs. Walter Rast and Tom Schaub.

Early Bronze Age Feifeh sits on a hilltop about 50 metres east of the highway, above a modern white grave. Only the tumbled stones of a possible tower are visible from the highway. Gheuck had spotted, but could not identify, this site during an aerial survey of the region in 1937.

In 1973, Drs. Rast and Schaub identified it as one of the string of Early Bronze Age walled towns along the south-eastern plains of the Dead Sea. The town site, about 100 metres from east to west, is composed of two walled areas that may or may not have been linked together.

Wall remains on the east and west extremities are best preserved in the south-east corner. A heap of stones on a square base in the middle of the east part of the site may be the remains of a tower. Sherds from the east part of the settlement were mainly from the EB period; the west part of the site also produced EB pottery, but relatively more Roman, Byzantine and Medieval Arab sherds.

The site's frequent use in antiquity is due to the availability of water from springs and the Wadi Feifeh, the rich agricultural lands in the ghor, and a strategic location along an established land route.

Dr. Burton McDonald suggests that in the Chalcolithic/Early Bronze periods, when the Dead Sea may have extended further south than it does today, Feifeh may have been located at the south end of the Dead Sea. If so, it would have been located at a key junction of the north-south track in the Wadi 'Araba and the east-west track around the south coast of the Dead Sea.

Much of the site is covered with a layer of thick charcoal, similar to the final destruction layer at Numeira. Drs. Rast and Schaub suggest that a long row of large stones on the north side of the site,

heading down the slope to the plain below, may be the remains of a ramp that once led up to the main gate of the walled town.

Several door sockets were also found on the north and north-west sides of the site, and a similar approach/entrance ramp exists at the EB site at Modawerch, higher up in the east Jordan plateau.

East of the walled town is an extensive ancient cemetery covering an area of some 1.5 kilometres by half a kilometre, north and east of the walled EB town. It may be as large as the Early Bronze Age cemetery at Bab edh-Dhira', though only future surveys and excavations can verify this.

The tombs, some of which have been recently opened by modern grave robbers, seem to be rectangular, stone-lined cist types with one end usually rounded, containing what appear to be disarticulated burials.

Rujm Unruq

Between the highway and the mouth of the Wadi Unruq, three kilometres south of Feifeh and about 150 metres east of the highway, are the remains of an ancient watchtower called Rujm Unruq. The tower remains, on an ellipse-shaped hill north of the wadi bed, have been disturbed by modern tomb robbers and recent bulldozing activity.

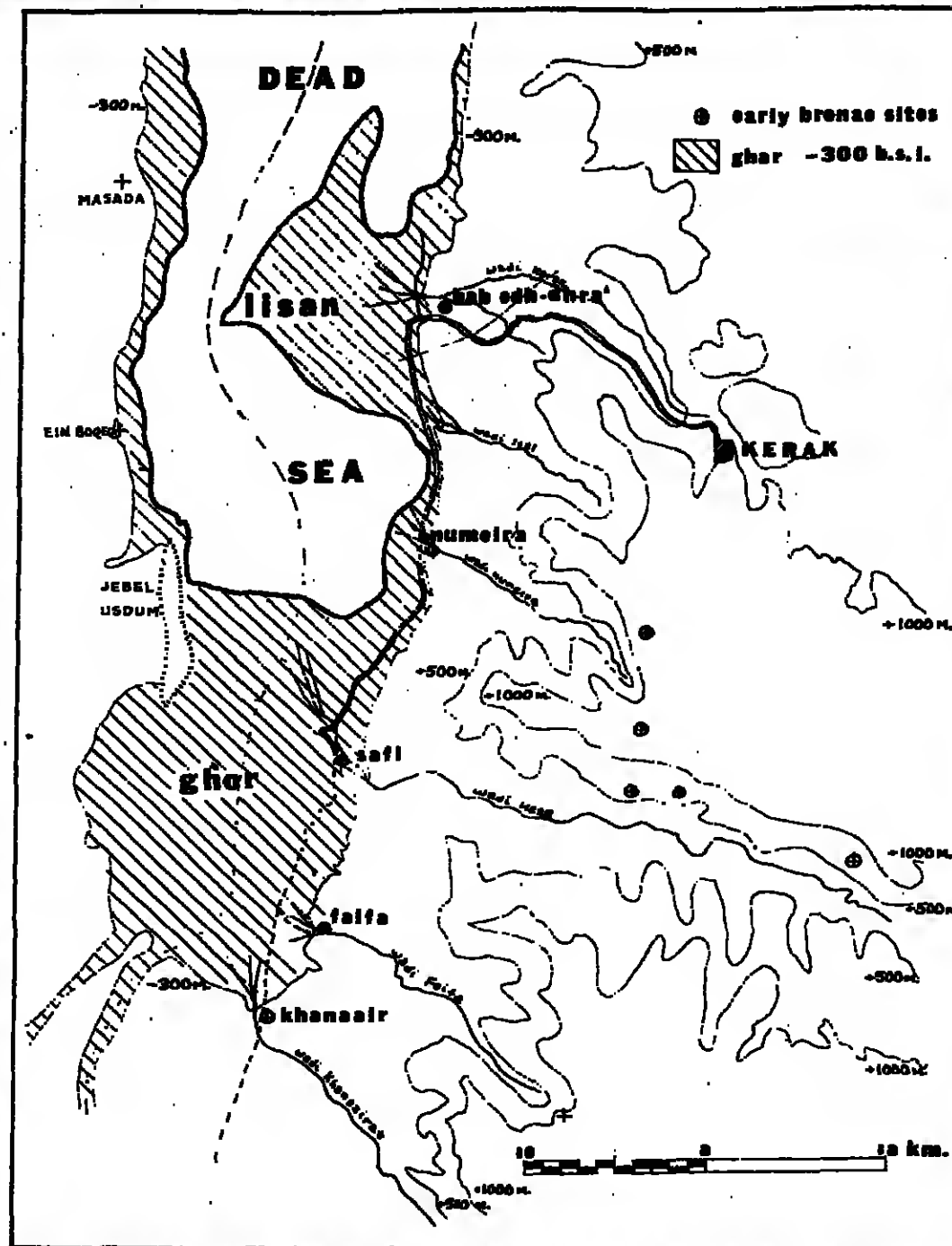
The pottery at the site is mostly Nabataean, with some Chalcolithic/Early Bronze wares and perhaps some painted Iron Age sherds as well.

Khneizirah

About 5.5 kilometres south of the Feifeh junction are the remains of Khneizirah, the southernmost of the five Early Bronze Age walled towns recorded by the 1973 Rast and Schaub survey. Frank and Gheuck both visited the site in the 1930s, without identifying its use in the Early Bronze Age.

The site is about 200 metres east of the highway and the Wadi Khneizirah, on a high, flat spur at the mouth of the Wadi Khneizirah. Only a pile of tumbled stones on the summit of the hill is visible from the highway, from a point just to the north of the large bridge over the Wadi Khneizirah.

The ruins are surrounded by the



Map of the southern Ghors showing the Early Bronze Age towns of Bab edh-Dhira', Numeira, Safi, and Feifeh.

remains of a stone wall following the contours of the hill. A heap of stones on the south-east side of the site may be the remains of an internal tower within the walls.

South and west of the ruins are remains of recently plundered oval-shaped, stone-lined tombs cut into the ground. At a lower level north-west of the ruins are some ancient wall remains associated with a scatter of Nabataean sherds.

The pottery collected by Drs. Rast and Schaub in 1973 and by Dr. Burton McDonald in 1985

dates from the Early Bronze, Iron, Nabataean, Roman and Mamluk periods.

Mr. Tom Raikes noted worked flint, much pottery, glass fragments, graves and the remains of structures in the flood plain north of Wadi Khneizirah, perhaps indicating that the ancient inhabitants of the area may have cultivated these fields as early as the Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The name Wadi Khneizirah means "wadi of the wild boar" in Arabic. Wild boar are still hunted

today in some remote parts of the Jordan River Valley, the Southern Ghors and Wadi 'Araba.

About three kilometres upstream from the highway, Mr. Raikes also discovered an ancient aqueduct with a standing archway on the north bank of the wadi, partly built of masonry and partly cut out of the natural rock.

Further upstream, where the aqueduct bends through a deep-cut trench in the rocks, are the remains of an ancient dam thought to date from the late Roman/Byzantine period.



Three months after Chernobyl

By Andrew Rosenthal
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Chernobyl nuclear accident has created ghost towns, cost top government officials their jobs and triggered a review of the ambitious nuclear programme that is the cornerstone of the Soviet's future energy policy.

Three months after the Ukrainian reactor exploded April 26, workers are still cleaning up and the nation's highest authorities are undertaking an unusual public accounting of an unprecedented disaster that left 28 dead.

On July 19, the ruling politburo blamed the accident on gross negligence of plant workers and officials. It said ignored safety procedures and undertook experiments without proper precautions.

Most of what is known about the accident comes from official Soviet accounts — few foreigners have been allowed near the plant.

But a picture has emerged of what happened at 1:23 a.m. Saturday, April 26, 1986, in Chernobyl's No. 4 reactor near the town of Pripyat, 80 miles north of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

The accident

The No. 4 reactor had been shut down. Without notification, and in violation of safety rules and without proper supervision, workers began experimenting on one of the electricity-producing turbines, according to the politburo account.

The reactor, cooled by water and moderated by graphite, surged from 6 per cent of capacity to 50 per cent in 10 seconds.

The water cooling system couldn't handle the overload. Water combined with the graphite and produced hydrogen that exploded. The blast ripped open the reactor core and set fire to the building around it.

One official said the first blast was equivalent to a ton of dynamite and was followed by lesser explosions. Two plant workers were killed.

Intense heat turned the graphite into glowing embers that burned for two weeks.

Firefighters battled flames for four hours, some dying, to stop fire from spreading to the adjacent No. 3 reactor building and to a central core of cables, the lifeline for both reactors.

Radioactive particles, including iodine-131, cesium and strontium, formed a cloud that spread across northern and central Europe and eventually around the world in varying degrees.

The evacuation

The 50,000-plus residents of Pripyat, the closest to the reactor, weren't evacuated until Sunday afternoon, April 27. About 1,800 buses were brought from Kiev — officials said later the exodus took just a few hours, but it took eight more days to evacuate the rest of the 18-mile danger zone — no one has explained why.

In all, more than 100,000 people were evacuated, along with thousands of animals. Some went far away to new jobs and new homes. Children were sent to summer camps.

Some reports say a few evacuees were allowed back to villages near the edge of the danger zone but that Pripyat is a ghost town with abandoned wash still flapping from clotheslines. Other reports say thousands of people will get new homes this fall farther away from Chernobyl.

A new town of 10,000 is to be built about 10 miles south of the plant for workers who are to come in on two-week shifts. Their families are to be housed in Kiev and another city.

Press reports show at least 17,000 other homes are being built for families of evacuees in other places.

No one has said when or if the reactor area will be habitable again.

The Kremlin's reaction

For almost 72 hours after the explosion, the Kremlin told its

own people nothing. Diplomatic queries in Moscow and Europe met curt denials.

But the spreading radiation, detected abroad, couldn't be kept secret. On Monday, April 28, in late evening, the government acknowledged the accident.

Military pilots dumped sand, lead, boron and dolomite onto the reactor, choking off the radiation almost completely.

Miners and soldiers dug and blasted a tunnel to build a concrete and lead platform beneath the reactor block.

Workers are now making a concrete shell for the reactor that is slated to be in place by later autumn — a tomb that will remain radioactive for hundreds of years.

Embankments 12 miles long were built to protect the Pripyat river, which flows by the plant and into the Dnieper, which feeds a reservoir north of Kiev, and then runs through the city itself.

A new water supply system was built for Kiev, although officials say water there is safe. Underground streams are to be diverted from the plant area to avoid washing radiation into the Pripyat river.

Chemical sprays and synthetic ground covering are being used to decontaminate the plant, the soil and the surrounding villages. Some topsoil is being removed.

The latest official toll is 28 dead and 30 hospitalised. An additional 173 are listed as having radiation disease. Doctors, including three U.S. physicians and an Israeli, performed 13 bone marrow transplants and six fetal liver transplants.

One of the Americans, Dr. Robert Gale, has said 50,000 to 100,000 people risk contracting radiation-related diseases, but that the actual number of cases will be much lower. Yet, he and his Soviet colleagues are discussing ways to monitor 200,000 people for life.

The politburo said the accident has caused the equivalent of \$2.8 billion in damage, shut down factories and farms and contaminated 400 square miles of land.

Western experts say the reactor itself was worth 1 billion rubles (\$1.4 billion). The cleanup also cost the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Losses in farm produce, work time and factory production are difficult to assess.

The Washington-based research group Planecan says Chernobyl will cost the Soviets \$2.7 billion to \$4.3 billion.

Soviet officials say two of the three damaged reactors will be working again by October, but there's no word on the third.

An official said alternate sources have been able to make up only a fraction of the energy lost by Chernobyl's shutdown.

Soviet officials say they're still committed to nuclear energy. But the entire Soviet programme is under review.

The politburo said safety procedures at nuclear plants, including the other 11 Chernobyl-type reactors, must be reassessed and workers retrained.

The practice of locating plants near towns and cities is under review and safety improvements are planned for all reactors.

Political fallout

The Chernobyl disaster was a test for Communist Party leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's promises to extend accountability into the Kremlin itself and to carry out investigations and punishment publicly.

No top party officials have been fired but the politburo's report said a state committee chairman, a rank equal to a government minister, was fired, along with two deputies. A second chairman was given a severe warning.

Lower down, the plant manager and local party and industry officials have been sacked. The politburo has said those responsible for the accident will be tried. And earlier this month, the government announced formation of a new atomic energy ministry charged with breathing new life into the industry. Nikolai Lakonin, who has managed two plants of the Chernobyl type, was named to head the ministry.

Why the food industry blow hot and cold

The day of the can may be numbered. A Swedish firm is developing a process for preserving food without putting it in a can. The food looks better, tastes fresher and rivals canning in its low cost. Elaine Williams reports.

LONDON: A can opener may become an object of antiquity if trials of a novel food technique later this year are successful.

The new process not only does away with cans but also obviates the need for freezing food.

The Multitherm process, developed by Alfistar in Sweden, is said to preserve food for several months without chemicals. It has the added advantage that it rivals canning in its low cost but products taste fresh — even difficult to preserve food like fruit and vegetables.

Its main use could be as a replacement for bulky cans or frozen packed food like fish. Unlike most plastic packed food, the Alfistar products do not need freezing and can be stored at room temperature, so reducing costs for storage in warehouses and supermarkets.

Alfistar is backed by Alfa Laval, one of the world's leading dairy equipment suppliers, and Swedish Match. Also Akerlund and Ransing, a leading packaging company, has contributed its knowhow to the Multitherm system. The National Swedish Board for Technical Development has given more than \$K130 million (\$213 million) towards development costs — one of the largest grants this organisation has agreed.

The investment could give

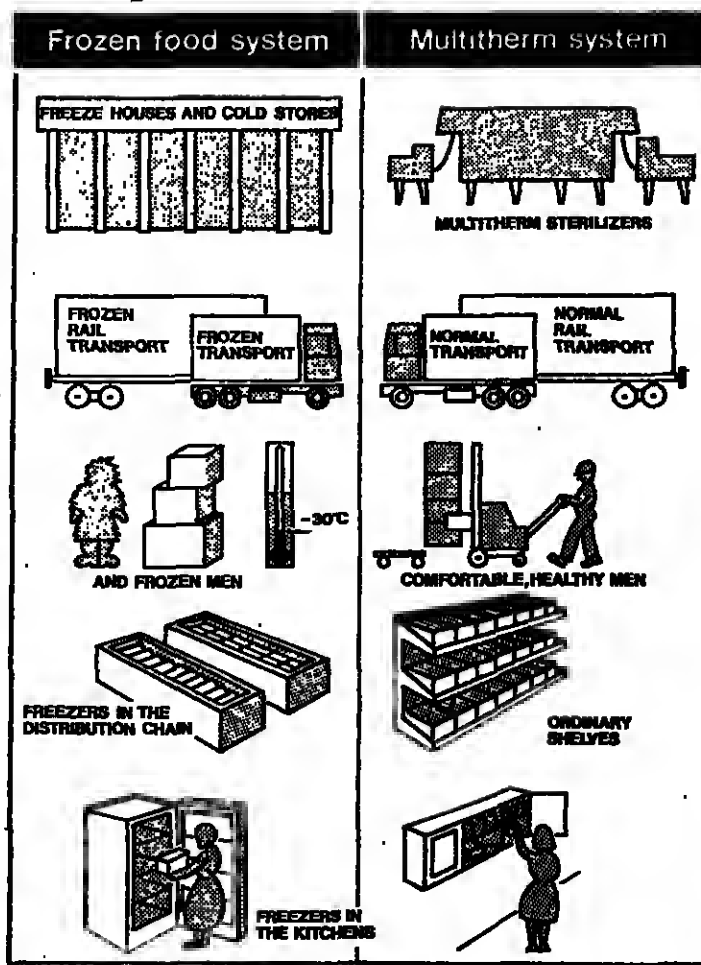
Alfistar access to an early lead in an untapped market.

How big a slice is difficult to determine because the Multitherm process competes with so many areas of the food market. In the U.K. alone, frozen food is worth £1.5 billion (\$2.28 billion) and the burgeoning chilled foods sector has risen from £35 million in 1980 to £90 million last year. Even though the canned food market has stagnated, 20 million cans are purchased every day.

After several years of development, the Multitherm is ready for consumer trials. The BOB food chain, one of Sweden's largest food manufacturers, is setting up a processing line at its Orebro factory and Hillsdown, a large canning company in the U.K. has also agreed to produce Multitherm based foods. In this market, customer reaction is the key to success or failure.

Hillsdown, which is the largest U.K. packer of fruit and vegetables, is particularly concerned with the rapid decline in staple canned products, such as peas and strawberries. Consumers prefer the texture and colour of frozen or fresh products rather than the soft texture and brownish tinge of canned foods.

Already some of the large U.K. food chains have been to see the process. Hillsdown says that much



of the reaction has been very favourable.

In August Hillsdown will complete the technical evaluation

of the product before the final decision is made to enter the market. The company chose Alfistar because it could find no

other suitable process, though competing systems are available for preserving only liquids from Tetrapak in Sweden and Comblock in the U.K.

Initially, the Multitherm systems will be restricted to high-value-added products because of the limited production capacity of machinery. Present prototype equipment can process only 40 packs a minute, which is 10 times slower than canning equipment. However, Hillsdown engineers believe that there is no technical barrier to meeting those speeds when demand from supermarkets takes off.

Alfistar processing is based on heating the food just as for canning. The difference is that cooking time for canning can take hours while the Alfistar system takes only a few minutes.

Lennart Stenstrom, who developed Multitherm, says that it manages to achieve the same as other preserving processes i.e. the destruction of bacteria and the inhibition of enzymes, but in a much shorter time. The short cooking period also helps preserve vitamins and the natural colour of most food without additives and leaves the original structure and texture intact so that the food resembles fresh produce after many months.

The secret behind Multitherm is rapid but even heating throughout the food taking the temperature up to 150°C in less than a minute. Surprisingly, achieving such a uniform temperature rise is

difficult. Stenstrom found that even with microwave heating, the temperature difference between the centre of the food and the edges could be threefold — enough to melt the plastic packaging at the edges but insufficient to destroy the bacteria at the centre.

Stenstrom took years to find a way of evenly processing the food. After packing in its plastic container, the food is pre-heated to 50°C, then briefly cooled, and then surrounded in water bath and heated in a microwave oven.

Finally, the product is cooled to room temperature and can be stored in this state several months. This combination of heating and cooling ensures that the outer layers of food are maintained at the same overall temperatures as the inner layers which take longer to reach the critical bacteria-destroying temperature.

For Stenstrom, the problem had been to automate the heating and cooling process so that it could be used on large production lines. Akerlund and Ransing, part of Swedish Match, also put their plastic packaging technology at Stenstrom's disposal to help Alfistar select the right packing for the process.

In addition to the Multitherm for solid food, Alfistar is well advanced on the development of a rapid preservation system for liquids, which is a highly competitive market — Financial Times Feature.

Japanese wives seek relief from boredom of isolation

By Caroline Dale
Reader

TOKYO — Host clubs, the latest rage in Japan's lucrative night-time entertainment world, cater exclusively for women who have broken from the Japanese tradition of subservience to their men.

Wealthy, bored, middle-aged wives are seeking their share of the fun their husbands have been indulging in at hostess clubs for years.

At host clubs like New Queen in Asakusa, the hub of Tokyo's night-life, stately dressed young men groomed to perfection in British tailored suits entertain women whose adult children and workaholic husbands rarely take time even to talk to them.

"Women come here to recapture a dream of their youth,"

says host Kodama, who declined to reveal his full name.

For the Japanese housewife with little opportunity to meet men socially, host clubs, for around 100,000 yen (\$625) an evening, are a discreet answer.

A chat about gourmet cooking, a tango or two to a live band, some fairly heavy drinking, all with the man of their choice, add up to a thrilling fantasy.

Their hosts' suave discreetness contrasts sharply with the raucous type of fun offered to husbands at hostess clubs.

Japanese women in their forties and fifties today have spent their lives trying to please their fathers, husbands and sons. They do not want simply to be pawed, nudged or flattered with clichés about their looks, the hosts say.

"This is not easy money," said Masagi Tamura. "I used to deal

bonds at merrill lynch but without a masters degree it was hard to get anywhere so I chucked it in to become a host."

Tips are the real no-tax money spinner for a host. A wad of banknotes passed under the table, a Porsche, or an apartment in a fashionable city block make it all worthwhile.

"We don't accept gifts worth less than one million yen (\$6,250) as the commitment would not be worth it," Kodama said. But he declined to define "commitment."

Japan's laws forbid male or female prostitution.

The women are mostly wives of top executives or successful men with their own businesses. A few are single, middle-aged working women wanting to relax after work, hosts say.

Japanese women wealthy enough o frequent host clubs or

keep a young man are just a small proportion of women wanting to have affairs, says Yoriko Madoka, who runs a counselling service on modern family problems.

Madoka, who has written 16 books on divorce and family problems, says adultery in Japan normally means husbands having sex with young single women, usually a colleague at work.

However, the number of married women having affairs or "furingu" (flings) rose to five per cent of 630 people she counselled last year, against two per cent the previous year.

But Madoka concedes few married women having an affair would openly discuss it as a family problem or seek her advice.

"Everyone is harder on an unfaithful wife and her affair means she may lose custody of children in a divorce," she said.

"They must be discreet as most have no means of support apart from their husband's income," she added.

Journalist Shigeo Saito collated intimate details of the lives of hundreds of Japanese housewives in a book called "Wives' Autumn Years," four years ago.

"I was shocked at the common response about the overriding loneliness and boredom in their lives," Saito said.

"Those with millions of yen spending money a year might relieve boredom at host clubs, but in a few years more Japanese women might go out to work to develop satisfying lives," he said.

Madoka calls the life of most women in modern Japan's well-ordered society the "empty syndrome." Lack of social opportunity for Japanese married women to meet people frequently

results in affairs with children's teachers, she said.

Teachers at a local tennis club, art history and English-language instructors at culture centres are all prime targets for sexual liaisons.

"So many TV soap operas built around this theme indicate it is a common form of Japanese female adultery," she added.

High-school class reunions re-ignite dormant passions among the middle-aged of both sexes, said Mariko Fujiwara, a social researcher at the Hakuhodo Institute of Life and Living, part of Japan's second largest advertising agency.

"Women will talk about the attraction they feel ... and may describe some meetings but the minute they shut up you can tell things have gone further and they feel guilty," she said.

Navratilova, Lloyd clinch Federation Cup for U.S.

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Martina Navratilova completed her homecoming with victory Sunday, beating Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia 7-5, 6-1 to give the United States the championship of the Federation Cup.

Navratilova's triumph combined with a 7-5, 7-6 by Chris Evert Lloyd over Helena Sukova to end Czechoslovakia's three-year reign as champion of the international team tournament and give the United States its 12th title.

A doubles match concluded the programme.

Navratilova, a member of Cup-Winners from Czechoslovakia in 1975 and the United States in 1982, broke Mandlikova in the 12th game of the first set and the fourth and sixth games of the second to take the victory. She overtook her last.

The crowd started strongly in Mandlikova's corner, but as Navratilova, playing in Czechoslovakia for the first time since defecting 11 years ago, got

closer to victory, it swung its support to the American.

A flying volley that moved Navratilova to match point was greeted with wild applause, and the winning backhand volley brought many of the fans out of their seats.

As they walked off court, Mandlikova wrapped her arm around Navratilova's shoulder, and the fans kept cheering.

The only break Navratilova needed in the first set came on a double fault in the final game and seemed to remain on Mandlikova's mind as Navratilova opened the second set by holding at love.

Mandlikova encountered growing problems with her volleys and Navratilova got her first break of the second set when the Czech sent a volley into the net. She held with an ace for a 4-1 lead, then broke again when another Mandlikova volley went long. Navratilova then wrapped up the victory at love.

Boxing returns to China

PEKING (R) — China is holding its first boxing tournament since the sport was banned for being too dangerous in 1959, the official China News Service said Sunday. It reported that 72 students and workers were taking part in a five-day amateur competition in Shanghai aimed at producing top-class prospects for further training. Among the spectators at the sports stadium were two boxers from pre-World War II days, one known as "the deadly snake of Asia" and the other as "the first king of the south." China announced in March it was lifting the ban on boxing in order to boost its medal hopes in international sports competitions.

Piquet wins W. German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Former world champion Nelson Piquet, driving a Williams, won the West German Grand Prix motor race Sunday as behind him French title-holder Alain Prost ran out of fuel within metres of the finish line.

Piquet crossed the line more than 15 seconds clear of fellow-Brazilian Ayrton Senna with Williams team-mate Nigel Mansell of Britain third.

The result extended Mansell's lead at the top of the world championship standings to seven points. He was 51 points to Prost's 44 with Senna next on 42 and then Piquet on 38.

Piquet had duelled for the lead with Finland's Keke Rosberg throughout the 44-lap race, relinquishing it twice to him to change tyres and then winning it back for the last time with six laps to go.

But Rosberg and Prost can both count themselves extremely unlucky and Mansell a little fortunate.

At the end of the 43rd and penultimate lap Rosberg was second and Prost fourth, ahead of archrival for the title Mansell, who lay fifth.

That left Prost in third and the Frenchman looked booked for four valuable points until he too ran out of fuel 150 metres from the finish.

The reigning champion tried desperately to push his car over the line but had to give up the struggle as Mansell roared through into third and Rene Arnoux into fourth.

With nobody else on the same lap fifth and sixth places were determined by the placings at the end of the 43rd lap when Rosberg was 10 seconds up on Prost.

Tyson knocks out Frazier in 30 seconds

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. (R) — Unbeaten Mike Tyson took another step toward a heavyweight championship fight with a devastating first-round knockout of Marvin Frazier Saturday night at the Glens Falls Civic Centre.

Tyson stopped Frazier 30 seconds into the fight to raise his record to 25-0, with 23 of those victories inside the distance.

Frazier, the son of former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, is now 16-2. His only other loss, another first-rounder, came in 1983 to then-World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes.

The knockout was the fastest of Tyson's short but spectacular career and further established him as a top contender for the heavyweight crown.

Only 20 years old, he is currently ranked second by the

WBC and eighth by the World Boxing Association.

"I just wanted to win this fight so badly," Tyson said after the fight. "A lot of people, even people who I thought were my friends, were telling me I couldn't beat Marvin."

Tyson proved them wrong quickly. At the opening bell, he rushed across the ring and exchanged punches with Frazier. Within seconds he pinned Frazier against the ropes, set him up with a left jab and then landed a powerful right uppercut that stunned Frazier.

Tyson followed with a right cross that put Frazier out on his feet. Tyson, the obvious favourite of the crowd of 5,102, then dropped his 25-year-old opponent with a short left.

Referee Joe Cortez moved in and counted only as far as three before stopping the fight.

"I was calm. I was relaxed," said

Tyson. "I was very confident I would stop him in the first round."

Frazier said he had wanted to test Tyson.

"I figured, let's see what Mike has," Frazier said at the post-fight press conference. "I found out a little too late."

Tyson's next scheduled fight is a 10-round bout for Aug. 17 against Jose Ribalta, who has already lost to Frazier. A site has not yet been named.

Tyson weighed in at 98.4 kilograms. Frazier weighed 95.5 kilograms.

Soviet Union beats U.S. in dual meeting

In Sacramento, California, the Soviet Union beat the United States 6-2 at the Amateur Boxing Invitational Dual meeting Saturday night.

In the only knockout of the match, Alexander Miroshnichenko of the Soviet

Union floored Wesley Watson 61 seconds into their 91 kilogramme bout.

In the Soviet Union's two unanimous decisions, Renat Trishev beat Donald Stephens in the 81 kilogramme division and Viacheslav Yakovlev beat Alex Garcia in a 91 kilogramme bout.

The two U.S. victories belonged to recently crowned world champions Kenneth Gould in the 67 kilogramme division and Darin Allen at 75 kilogramme.

Gould won by a unanimous 3-0 decision over Michael Shirin. Allen won by a 2-1 decision over Ruslan Tarakov.

The meeting was the 40th dual meeting between the two countries, dating back to 1969. The Soviet Union leads the series 34-6.

The eight-card exhibition featured three-round bouts in six of the heavier Olympic weight divisions.

Lemond, Canins win Tour de France

PARIS (Agencies) — Greg Lemond won the Tour de France Sunday, sealing his overall victory on the Champs-Elysees to become the first American to carry off the world's major cycling classic.

The 25-year-old Californian, who set out on Sunday's 23rd and final stage with a lead of over three minutes, completed his win ahead of French team-mate Bernard Hinault, who last year equalled the record of five tour victories.

Lemond, third in his first Tour de France in 1984 and second last year, finished in the pack undeterred by a spill earlier in the stage to clinch the 73rd edition of the 4,000-kilometre race, the first non-European ever to win it.

Guido Bontempi of Italy took the final sprint and won the 255 kilometres stage from Come-Cours-Sur-Loire which brought the three-week tour to its traditional climax of six sweeping laps of the Champs-Elysees in the heart of the French capital.

"I was very nervous but it worked out well," Lemond said.

Urs Zimmermann of Switzerland was third overall and Andrew Hampsten, a U.S. newcomer to the tour, fourth.

Hinault, who has said he will retire next November when he reaches his 32nd birthday, earned the red Polka-dot jersey as "king of the mountains" for compiling most points in the climbing sections of the race.

Lemond, the 1983 world road-race champion, took the tour leader's yellow jersey from Hinault in last Sunday's 17th stage and the pair killed off the challenge of the last of their serious rivals — Zimmermann — the following day in a superb duel break into l'Alpe d'Huez.

But the alliance of the two team-mates was an uneasy one, and the experienced Hinault pushed Lemond to the limit before finally reassuring the American after last Thursday's

final time-trial that he would no longer attack his lead.

Hinault pledged last year to do all he could to help Lemond win this tour in return for the American's support in 1985 which gave the Breton his fifth triumph, equalling the feats of fellow Frenchman Jacques Anquetil and Belgian ace Eddy Merckx.

Lemond, Hinault and their La Vie Claire team-mates dominated the 1986 tour, and health problems further dashed the hopes of rivals such as former tour victor Laurent Fignon and mountain specialists Robert Millar of Britain and Luis Herrera of Colombia.

About 80 of the 210 starters failed to complete this year's race. Maria Canins of Italy won the women's Tour de France on Sunday in a sprint finish down the Champs-Elysees marred when five of the cyclists crashed and fell beyond the finish line.

Youngest gold medallist comes from Canada

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Allison Higson, a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Canada, became the youngest gold medallist in the history of the Commonwealth Games Saturday when she raced to a games record in the 200-metre breaststroke.

Higson did not even qualify for Canada's national championships last year and was appearing in her first major championship. Competing against her was fellow Canadian Cindy Ounpuu, one of the top-ranked Commonwealth swimmers.

But Higson, of Brampton, Ontario, touched home first in a games record of 2:31.20, edging Ounpuu, who took the silver. "I was just aiming to get a good start in the world," a delighted Higson said.

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On July 31st, 1986, 7:30 pm at the Roman Philadelphia Amphitheatre

JJD 3,000 per person
Tickets available at: New York, New York, Concord and Rainbow Cinema, Cloud Seven (Jabal Waddeh) & JITO Video Centre (Shmeisani) and at the entrance. Gates open at 7:00 pm. Hamburgers and refreshments on sale.

A Charity Presentation for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation Centre, Mecca Road.

JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR SPECIALIST GEOTECHNICAL CONTRACTORS TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR THE MAIN GROUND INVESTIGATIONS CONTRACT FOR THE KARAMEH DAM SITE IN THE JORDAN VALLEY

1. The Jordan Valley Authority is seeking the services of a specialist geotechnical engineering contractor to carry out ground investigations for the proposed Karameh Dam project in the Jordan Valley. The investigations are to be carried out in the first half of 1987.
2. Ground investigation firms with suitable experience and resources are invited. Both local and foreign companies in association with local firms will be eligible for pre-qualification, though all applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have made appropriate arrangements to procure the required specialist services from companies with suitable experience before applying.
3. Firms wishing to pre-qualify to tender for this contract should apply to receive the pre-qualification document from the Jordan Valley Authority, P.O. Box (2769), Amman. Tel: 644217, Telex: 21053 JVAJO
4. The pre-qualification document will be available for distribution from 28th July, 1986 and the closing date for the submission of applications for pre-qualification is 1200 hrs Jordan local time on 14th August, 1986.

Dr. Munther Haddadin
President
Jordan Valley Authority

Cinema CONCORD

Into the Night
Performances: 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAINBOW

Abreed Apart
Performances: 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema OPERA

The New Kids
Performances: 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cine Theatre Philadelphia

White Nights
Performances: 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAGHADAN

Cobra (Indian)
Performances: 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30

Panama resists pressure on bank secrecy

Banking is so vital to Panama's economy that it is fighting hard against U.S. pressure to ease secrecy laws and prevent drug smugglers "laundering" their profits. Robert Graham, recently in Panama City, reports.

BANK secrecy is an article of faith in Panama. The country's policy of non-disclosure has been the principal factor behind Panama City's development of offshore business over the past 15 years.

This policy is now under strong pressure from the U.S. authorities, who maintain that Panama's banking secrecy permits large-scale laundering of money, especially drug-generated funds or "narco-dollars." At all levels, from the government and opposition parties to the bankers themselves, there is strong resistance to any change in policy, fearing this might permanently damage Panama as an offshore centre.

Banking and related financial services employ some 9,000 people and the sector accounts for over eight per cent of growth national product (GNP). In an economy otherwise dependent upon the operation of the canal and the expenditure of the U.S. military, the health of banking is of vital importance. Thus Panamanians do not rush quickly to moral indignation over accusations that their bank secrecy is being used to launder money.

'No one checks church collection'

"In a church collection, no one

checks to see whether money has been deposited by a nun or a prostitute. Why should we check with our depositors?" commented one prominent banker when challenged over the abuse of bank secrecy.

The Reagan administration believes that the multi-billion dollar drug trade can at least be discouraged by making it harder to launder money through Panama. In public no figure has been given on the extent to which Panama is being used, since much of the evidence is supposition. However, U.S. officials accept privately that at least \$500 million illegally generated drug funds pass through the Panamanian banking system each year.

As a first step, the Reagan administration is pressing the Panamanian government to accept a treaty that would permit an exchange of information. Those concerned with the negotiations insist that Washington is not trying to damage Panama as an offshore centre. Rather they want to establish a procedure whereby confidential information can be handed over on presentation of irrefutable proof of money laundering.

Such an agreement now exists with Switzerland. There is a similar arrangement with Britain

over its dependency, the Cayman Islands, and recently the Bahamas government indicated its willingness to discuss a treaty, reversing previous reluctance.

Senior members of Panamanian government like Dr. Ricardo Vasquez, the planning minister, are adamant that the country accepts the U.S. desire to stamp out the drug trade. However, they are reluctant to concede the principle of a treaty.

They believe the pressure comes as much, if not more, from the U.S. Treasury than from the Drug Enforcement Agency, with the basic U.S. concern centring on fiscal evasion. "It would be very difficult to stop this type of treaty arrangement extending into the fiscal area, and once that happened, it really would damage confidence in Panama as an offshore centre," said one Panamanian official.

Since Panama operates a dollar economy, and is without a central bank of its own, old notes and excess liquidity are returned to the U.S. Part of this excess liquidity is believed to reflect the scale of money being laundered in Panama.

Since 1979 the task of returning these notes has been taken over from Chase by the semi-official Banco Nacional de Panama. In 1984 \$1.1 billion was returned to the Federal Reserve (Fed) and since then the figure has not varied very much. Panamanian officials say this indicates that the flow of

laundered funds has thus been held down. However, it is understood that the Fed has been imposing strict limits on the supply of new notes shipped to Panama.

The Reagan administration is coy over how much pressure it is willing to put on Panama, given Washington's strategic interest in the canal. The Panamanians have made only one concession: the Banking Association has enjoined members not to accept deposits of more than \$100,000 in cash from unknown customers. However, the measure is self-policing among the 10 foreign and Panamanian banks.

The major international banks, all present in Panama, recognise it is in their interests to be rigorous and believe that inspection and control by the banking commission could be tightened. Last year the authorities revoked the licence of a foreign owned bank, the First Inter-Americans Bank, the assets of which totalled \$42 million. Among the objections subsequently raised about bank's activities by the authorities was unexplained excess liquidity.

Government seems aware of risks

The government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle seems well aware of the risks of a tarnished image. But altering the 1970 laws that enshrine secrecy would probably be an act of political

suicide — even with the tacit support of the powerful military establishment (which is currently against any change).

Furthermore these are lean times for Panama to embrace banking reforms. The recession in Latin America and the continuing debt crisis have sharply reduced overall business. Traditionally Panama has been used as a banking centre for Latin American loans. Eight out of every \$10 lent is to Latin America. The debt crisis has meant a drop of 20 per cent in offshore lending to \$17 billion.

Last year the decline in the level of total banking system assets was halted. Assets rose by 2.5 per cent to \$31.5 billion. This reflected some precautionary withdrawals by Latin American banks of their U.S.-based deposits on fears of possible freezing in the event of debt defaults. It also represented a modest upswing in the \$3 billion business of the Canal Free Zone.

These leaner times have led some banks like Bank of America to reduce their profile or hold back on expansion plans. In the short term no one envisages anything other than a modest increase in business. But these prospects are weighed against the continuing advantage of a presence in a dollar-based centre which is strategically located, has a pool of experienced and bilingual staff, enjoys tax haven status — and extols bank secrecy — Financial Times news feature.

OPEC renews discussions today to cross 'minefield'

GENEVA (AP) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) representatives will have to negotiate through a "minefield" of differences when they meet this week, one of the oil ministers says.

Ministers from OPEC began arriving in Geneva Saturday for a meeting they hope will yield a unified strategy to reverse the plunge in oil prices.

Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto, one of the architects of the quotas proposal said Saturday the group still had a wide "minefield" to cross, but he expressed hope for a majority agreement.

The wide differences among OPEC members were highlighted when Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Taqi reiterated his country's demand for an equal production quota as Iran, its Gulf war foe.

Mr. Taqi told Iraq's state-run news agency Saturday he hoped that OPEC members would respond positively to the demand that "Iraq's share not be in any way lower than that of Iran."

Iraq's OPEC-decreed quota is 1.2 million barrels a day, while Iran's limit is 2.3 million barrels a day. However, oil industry executives estimate Iraq is currently exporting about 1.5 million barrels a day.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said OPEC is working towards an oil price average of \$17 to \$19 per barrel.

He said a gradual recovery of prices is expected for 1987, but a steady upward trend could begin even this year if OPEC agrees on new production quotas.

Mr. Hernandez said prices will

depend upon OPEC's ability to distribute production quotas among its 13 members in its conference in Geneva Monday.

Mr. Hernandez said OPEC agreed on a global ceiling of oil daily to be shared among its members. He said the group is discussing how to distribute this ceiling "in quotas everybody will be able to respect."

"We're also working towards a price of between \$17 and \$19 per barrel," he added.

Mr. Hernandez said OPEC possesses 67 per cent of the world's oil proven reserves. Independent producers, among them Great Britain, Norway and Mexico, have reserves for some 16 years at current production levels, the minister said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf partners show no sign of throttling back their oil production in the run-up to Monday's OPEC meeting in Geneva, oil industry sources in the region said Saturday.

The sources said that Gulf Arab producers are responsible for pumping 3.0 to 3.5 million barrels per day (b/d) above their quotas set in October 1984 — the vast majority of the overproduction by OPEC as a whole.

The heavy production schedule results from the Gulf producers' insistence on holding on to a solid share of the market, after watching sales dwindle over the

past five years. The Saudis served notice this month that they were no longer prepared to stick to their 4.353 million b/d quota while other OPEC members ignored their own. Saudi output has averaged six million b/d this month, the oil sources said.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have shown willingness to reduce output, but only on assurance of a credible agreement from all the other producers to limit their own levels as well.

But the two other most important Arab producers in the Gulf — Iraq and the United Arab Emirates — are adamant in refusing to cut production at all.

OPEC Chairman Rikman Lukman said at the end of OPEC's last meeting in Brioni, Yugoslavia, last month that the ministers had given a tacit agreement to restrain production this month.

But he said last week that the group was now pumping more than 19.5 million b/d, compared with the 16 million b/d ceiling set in 1984. In Brioni an OPEC majority agreed on a 17.6 million b/d ceiling but failed to settle quotas to back that up.

The five Gulf Arab OPEC members have quotas totalling 7.683 million b/d under the October 1984 agreement, but they are now estimated to be producing about 11 million b/d.

Industry sources Saturday gave the following estimates of output for Saudi Arabia's partners, with the agreed quotas in parentheses: Iraq 1.9 million b/d (1.2 million), United Arab Emirates 1.5 million (950,000), Kuwait 1.4 million (900,000) Qatar 300,000 (280,000).

Mexico-IMF agreement brings flexibility to world debt problems

WASHINGTON (R) — Mexico's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week broke new ground on both sides and has strengthened hopes that a flexible approach can ultimately resolve the world's debt problem.

It is the first concrete example of a large debtor nation agreeing to fundamental reforms to restore long-term economic growth, top U.S. and other officials say.

The agreement is also described as the first case of a major debtor country promising to make the kinds of economic changes outlined in the U.S. plan for shoring up the international debt situation. That scheme was unveiled last September by Treasury Secretary James Baker at the IMF annual meeting in Seoul, South Korea, and later dubbed the "Baker Plan."

"Mexico is the first (Baker Plan) case we have had," Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker said last week.

U.S. officials also note that the programme of economic reforms proposed by Mexico and accepted by the IMF last week is much more flexible than the standard IMF recipes for restoring economic

health.

The programme forms the linchpin of a roughly \$12 billion financial assistance package designed to compensate Mexico, which owes \$98 billion of foreign debt, for the 50 per cent slide in oil prices this year. Mexico earns almost 70 per cent of its revenues from oil.

Mexico has undertaken to cut its budget deficit to 10 per cent of national output by the end of next year, compared with around 13 per cent at present. At the outset of negotiations this spring, IMF was urging a 50 per cent cut in the deficit during the 18-month life of the programme.

Besides winning that concession, Mexico also extracted an undertaking from the fund that it would monitor the decline in the deficit, adjusted for inflation.

Analysts see this as crucial victory for Mexico, since if it fails to meet the nominal deficit reduction targets, it may still be able to point to a decline in the deficit after the impact of inflation has been discounted.

A U.S. official familiar with the agreement says the concession is significant because it allows

Mexico to minimise austerity-style budget cuts at a time when the country is in the midst of a deep recession.

"We hope (the programme) will form the basis for a return to economic growth," IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere said at ceremony marking the signing of the agreement.

"This programme of structural reform will enable Mexico to restore economic growth, lacking the last few years," new World Bank President Barber Conable said at the same ceremony.

The IMF is lending Mexico almost \$1.6 billion over 18 months while World Bank loans total \$2 billion for longer periods. Mexico's letter of intent to the IMF, outlining its reform programme, envisages a return to economic growth rates of between three and four per cent next year compared with a contraction of up to five per cent predicted for 1986.

In the past, IMF programmes have generally called for sharp currency devaluations, deep budget deficit cuts and tight credit conditions, invariably leading to sometimes deep recession.

'Netbacks' prop up sagging oil market

In a time of glut, crude oil sellers have found a way of keeping sales going. It is called a "netback agreement," but Lucy Kellaway reports that it may prove too cumbersome and too complex to remain in favour.

LONDON: One of the most important but least widely understood features in the oil market upheaval of the past year has been the growing popularity of "netback" pricing arrangements. While hastening the demise of OPEC's official prices and so contributing to the world market collapse, this system has also made it even more difficult to discern real trends in prices.

Under a netback deal the price a refiner pays for crude oil is effectively the price he eventually received for the refined products, less an agreed profit margin. In a falling market this is an attractive way for the refiner to buy oil as it eliminates his exposure to market risk altogether.

Saudi Arabia started exporting oil on a netback basis a year ago, and now sells almost its entire output in this way. Other producers have followed suit, and netback pricing is now used by Iran, Kuwait, Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, the USSR and Venezuela.

At least 6 million barrels of crude change hands daily on netback terms, and some think the total may be much higher.

North Sea producers have remained aloof from the netback movement, however. This is partly because their markets are nearby so that buyers are not taking as much of a price risk as the buyers of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) crudes. Moreover, the major U.K. oil companies need to be able to show the tax authorities an unambiguous transfer price

between their upstream and downstream operations. The Brent forward market can provide such a price, but with a netback deal the price would be more blurred.

Last summer, when Saudi Arabia decided to abandon its role as swing producer for OPEC, netback pricing offered the way to increase its market share by selling customers oil with a risk-free profit margin.

Saudi Arabia's output of oil last July had fallen to 2.2 million barrels a day (b/d) but six months later it had more than doubled to 4.5 million b/d.

According to Mr. Don Miller, the general manager of British National Oil Corporation (Trading) until it was disbanded two years ago, the large quantities of netback crude coming on to the market last November were the direct cause of the dramatic fall in crude oil prices.

He argues that netback pricing has injected instability into the market and could lead to a "self-perpetuating downward price spiral." He says netback prices precipitated a sharp fall in spot prices. This in turn pushed Saudi Arabia recently to cut its netback prices by giving customers discounts between 50 cents and \$1.50 a barrel.

Netback sales have also had a downward influence on product prices. If refiners are guaranteed a margin, they have less incentive to cut their runs when product prices fall. Instead they continue to produce, thereby exacerbating the initial oversupply on the market,

and depressing product prices further.

Although the relationship between spot prices and netback prices changes all the time, netback prices should in general work out more expensive than purchases on the spot market, with the difference representing a risk premium.

When refiners have the option of buying riskless netback oil they are unlikely to buy spot oil and take the risk that margins will be eroded or reversed unless it promises to prove significantly cheaper.

Relationship can reverse

However, for short periods the relationship can reverse. Recently netback prices have fallen below the spot price, partly as a result of falling product prices and partly because of higher freight rates, resulting from increased shipments of Gulf crudes and the risks created by the Iran-Iraq war.

Arriving at a netback price involves a complex formula containing few standard elements, and therefore yielding a different price for each deal. Indeed two netback deals done at the same time and for the same type of crude may show variations of \$2 a barrel or more.

There are about half a dozen variables in the netback formula, which no one except the buyer and seller will know. These include the product price references, the dates the prices are set (this is usually, but not always, the delivery date) and product yields from different

refineries, the level of processing costs, and the basis for assessing the cost of freight.

Hard to assess prices

Mr. Miller argues that the producers have deliberately made netback prices impossible for outsiders to assess. He says that terms "are at best imprecise and at worst totally opaque to the outsider observer."

Indeed, so impenetrable is the formula that the ability to calculate reliable netback prices is becoming a valuable skill. Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, the U.S. oil newsletter, has just published an "encyclopedia of netback and formula pricing techniques," which is being sold at \$325 a copy, which works out at \$16.25 per page.

However, whether such documents remain an indispensable part of every oil man's library may depend on whether oil prices continue to oscillate as wildly as they have done for much of this year.

As well as contributing to the instability of oil prices, netback deals have gained popularity as a direct result of that instability. But with the steadying of prices in recent weeks has come some evidence that the major consumers are reducing the proportion of the oil they buy netback. Some say they do not like the unwieldy and complex nature of netback deals, nor the fact that, unlike spot deals, they are term contracts with little flexibility on volume.

— Financial Times news feature.

Ivory Coast to sign new cocoa pact

GENEVA (R) — Ivory Coast Agriculture Minister Denis Bra Kanon said Saturday his country, the world's biggest cocoa producer, had decided to sign a new international price-stabilising cocoa pact concluded at United Nations-sponsored talks here last week.

The Ivory Coast does not belong to the present three-year agreement which runs out on Sept. 30. Until now, it has expressed a preference for market forces to set prices.

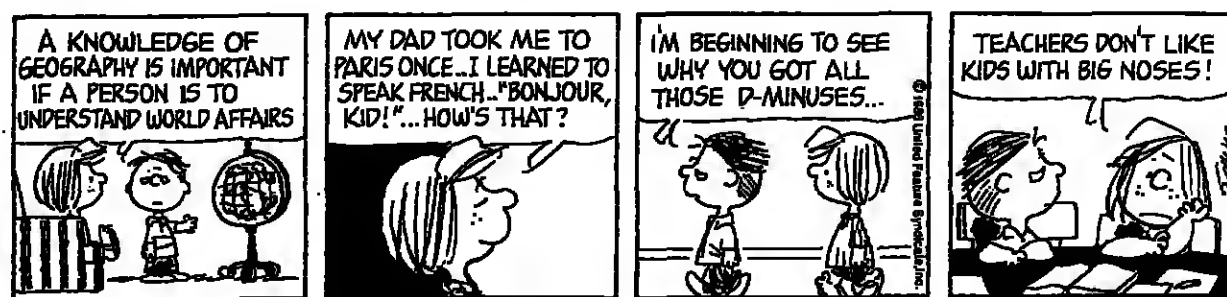
Mr. Kanon told a news conference Ivorian President Felix Houphouët-Boigny has given "the green light" for signing the new accord, which is due to be formally adopted this week.

The previous negotiating round in February had ended in failure after Mr. Kanon announced his country would not join a new accord and walked out. At the time the move seemed to have ruined any chance of reaching a deal.

Saturday, Mr. Kanon repeated earlier attacks on speculators, saying that because of a string of intermediaries cocoa prices were falling to the detriment of producers while consumers were paying higher prices for chocolate.

"As long as such drive for speculation prevailed, we could not applaud an accord which reduced us to some form of slavery," he said.

Peanuts



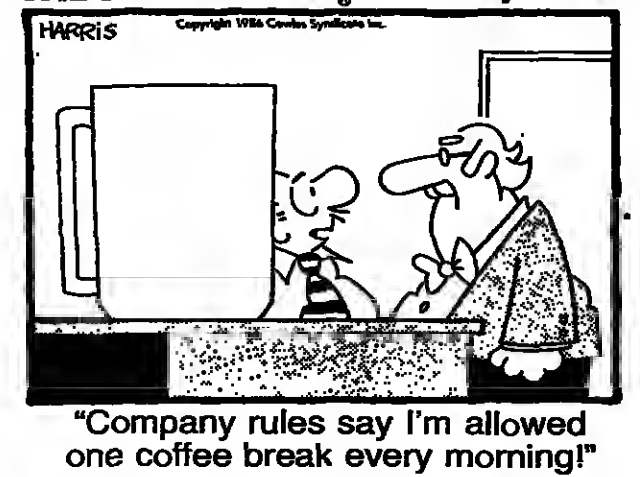
Mutt 'n' Jeff



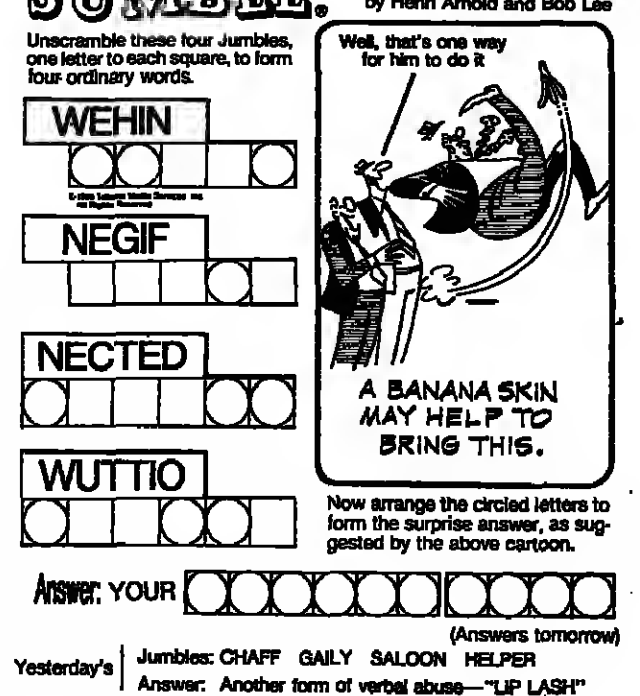
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

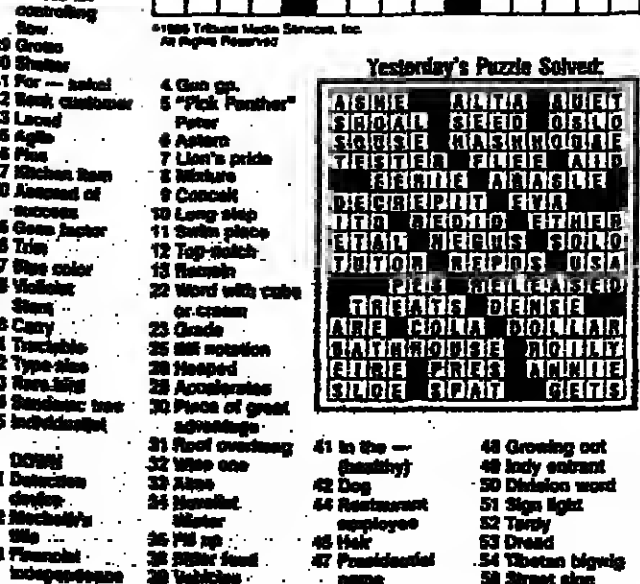
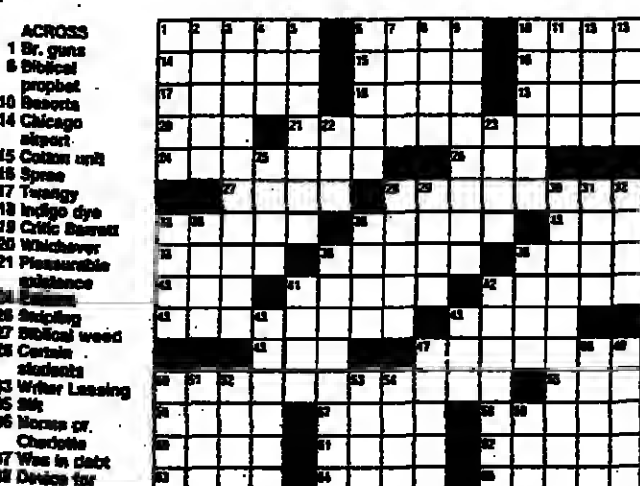


JUMBLE



Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray



African ministers call for OAU measures against U.K.

Swaziland, Lesotho oppose sanctions

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African foreign ministers Sunday called on members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to take steps against Britain to persuade it to impose.

The sources said the ministers early Sunday endorsed a resolution condemning Britain, Israel, France, West Germany and the United States for economic and military cooperation with Pretoria and singling out Britain for its opposition.

The resolution suggests sports boycotts, economic measures and breaking diplomatic relations as possible forms of pressure but leaves the African countries free to choose the methods they prefer.

OAU and diplomatic sources said earlier that in a late-night session which was still going on the ministers had merely "taken note" of the resolution, drafted by the OAU Liberation Committee in the Tanzanian town of Arusha earlier this month.

By adopting the resolution as their own, the ministers automatically pass it on for debate by OAU heads of state meeting in Addis Ababa Monday.

Taking note of it would have effectively shelved the Liberation Committee's proposals and this has been common practice at previous OAU ministerial meetings and summits, diplomats said.

In a separate resolution on South Africa, the ministers urged OAU states to "abstain from granting it landing and berthing rights to its aircraft and ships."

The appeal fell short of a Nigerian proposal for a ban on facilities for all ships and aircraft going to or from South Africa, regardless of nationality.

It appeared not to affect

Western airlines such as British Airways, Lufthansa and Swissair which land at black African capitals on their way to Johannesburg.

The same resolution called on Western countries, particularly the United States, Britain and West Germany to refrain from cooperating with South Africa in military and economic matters.

It also condemned the use of the veto in the U.N. Security Council to block mandatory sanctions on Pretoria.

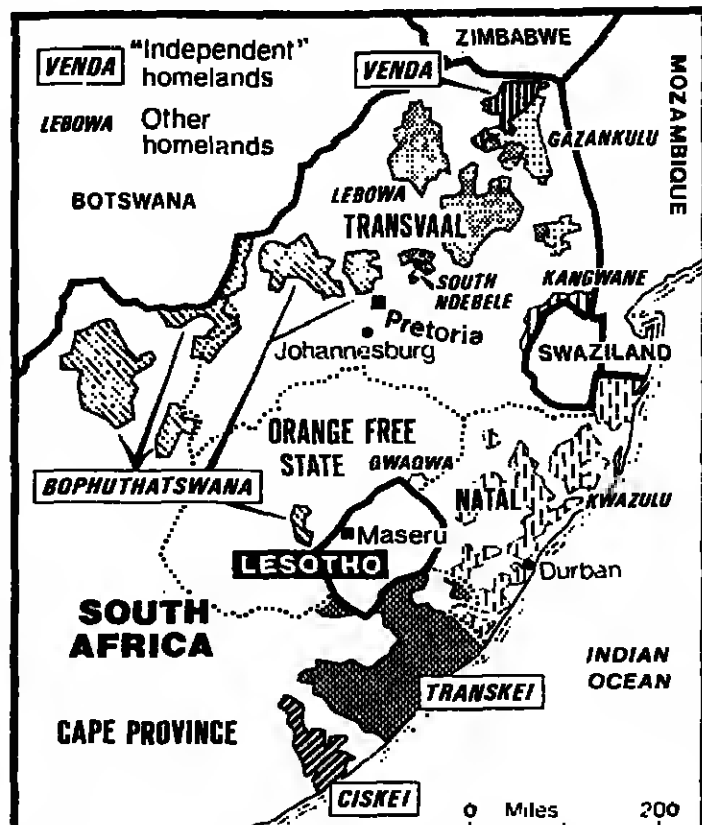
Meanwhile British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, during visits to Swaziland and Lesotho, has been given graphic descriptions of how the two black neighbours of South Africa could suffer if the West imposed tough economic sanctions on Pretoria.

Sir Geoffrey, on a peace mission to southern Africa for the European Community, made the brief visits Saturday.

British officials said there was no sign that Pretoria was prepared to meet Sir Geoffrey's central demand for the release of the jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Swazi Prime Minister Prince Bhekizizwe told Sir Geoffrey during his stay in Swaziland that the country "would be dead" before South Africa's white minority began to suffer from any Western sanctions.

In Lesotho, military leader Maj. Gen. Justin Lekhanya gave a detailed presentation of his impoverished country's economic dependence on South Africa.



Lesotho is surrounded by South African territory.

The general emerged from the meeting, surrounded by uniformed guards with Israeli-made sub-machineguns, and told reporters:

"The impact of sanctions could be very bad indeed because of Lesotho's geographical position. We prefer dialogue to sanctions."

Officials said Gen. Lekhanya told Sir Geoffrey that Lesotho received 80 per cent of its income from duties paid by South Africa. Merely by closing the border for a few days, Pretoria last January

engineered the fall of the previous civilian government.

South Africa has threatened to repatriate the 150,000 Lesotho labourers who work in its mines if the West imposes sanctions.

The 16-kilometre route taken by Sir Geoffrey from the country's main airport to the capital of Maseru revealed the poverty in which many of Lesotho's 1.5 million people live.

A shanty-town extends outside the capital and the road is also lined with heaps of rusted derelict cars.

Aide denies saying queen dismayed at Thatcher policies

LONDON (AP) — The queen's press secretary denies saying the monarch is dismayed at her prime minister's policies. The Observer newspaper and Britain's domestic news agency have said.

But both the paper and the agency identified Queen Elizabeth II's press secretary, Michael Shea, as the anonymous source cited in a controversial report in The Sunday Times last week.

The story said the queen was deeply disturbed about the future of the Commonwealth, which is divided over sanctions against South Africa and unhappy with the policies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who opposes

sanctions. In Britain's constitutional monarchy, the queen's role as head of state is strictly non-political and The Sunday Times article has aroused a furor in parliament and in the press.

The Sunday Times has steadfastly stood by its story. It did not identify its sources by name but said they were at a very high level and were fully aware that what they said would appear in print.

The Observer, an independent Sunday newspaper, said Mr. Shea told friends he was not the source of assertions that the queen was critical of the government, and said he had no direct knowledge of her views on Mrs. Thatcher.

"That's not something she would ever talk to me about or which I would need to know in order to do my job," he was quoted as saying.

The Press Association news agency, quoting unidentified Buckingham Palace sources, said Saturday night that Shea had responded "off the cuff" to what he regarded as ordinary inquiries by The Sunday Times reporters.

The sources were quoted as saying Shea was asked whether the queen was concerned about the unity of the Commonwealth

Gorbachev's anti-drink campaign has cost \$7 billion

MOSCOW (AP) — In a bantering exchange on a Vladivostok street corner, Kremlin leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev defended his anti-drink campaign and vowed to continue it despite what he said were losses to the state of about \$7 billion in 14 months.

Mr. Gorbachev simply shrugged off suggestions that the effort was causing trouble because it produced long lines at liquor stores.

The Communist Party chief dissented the anti-alcohol programme on Saturday with residents of the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok, according to official press accounts published Sunday.

The trip was Mr. Gorbachev's latest foray into the streets of his country to drum up support for efforts to speed up the economy and tighten labour discipline.

Street-corner chats have become Gorbachev's trademark and they are occasionally noteworthy for the crowds' relatively blunt questions, although the groups generally appear to be selected in advance.

The anti-alcohol campaign is an important part of Mr. Gorbachev's discipline drive. It began in May 1985 with cuts in liquor store hours and vodka production, an increase in the drinking age from 18 to 21 and a crackdown on public and workplace drunkenness.

The subject came up in Vladivostok, press reports said, when "someone in the crowd pointed out that there are now enormous lines outside liquor stores."

"And so what? Is it absolutely necessary to drink?" he said. "No, the point is that it should have been done differently," a resident said. "Isn't it a fact that people are standing in lines?"

"So don't stand, why make trouble for yourself?" retorted Mr. Gorbachev.

With encouragement from the crowd, Mr. Gorbachev defended the campaign.

Since it began, he said, the state has lost 5 billion roubles (about \$7



Mikhail Gorbachev

billion) in revenue from alcohol sales, and consumption is still dropping.

"In the first six months of this year, the sale of alcoholic beverages decreased by another 35 per cent in the country," he said. "We thought that sales would continue at last year's levels, but obviously, they are continuing to decline."

It wasn't clear if consumption was down because people want to drink less, or because less vodka is being produced.

But Mr. Gorbachev said family life was improving, death from accidents dropped 20 per cent and divorces are decreasing because of the anti-drinking programme.

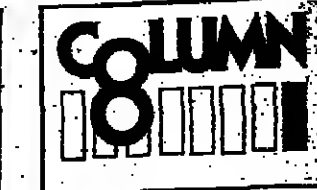
"Of course we are losing huge sums from the cuts in profit from vodka (sales)," Mr. Gorbachev said. "But I think that we should sustain it, and think about how to do it better."

Mr. Gorbachev's chat in Vladivostok followed similar man-in-the-street encounters he has initiated since inheriting power from the previous generation of elderly Kremlin chiefs.

During visits to Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, the oil-producing area of western Siberia, the grain fields of Kazakhstan and huge auto works near the Volga city of Kuibyshev, he was shown on television listening to the opinions of local people.

For Soviets, the open discussion contrast sharply with memories of earlier periods when criticism was suppressed, and stood out as part of Mr. Gorbachev's drive for frankness about social and economic ills.

The Soviet leader, who arrived in Vladivostok Friday said a special state programme might be needed to develop the Far East, potentially one of the country's richest regions.



Reagan slips up on season of inauguration

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan might have had Washington's current best wave in mind as he told a national radio audience he entered the White House "on a hot summer day." Expressing confidence the U.S. economy would pick up again in the future after a recent lackluster 1.1 per cent growth rate in the most recent three months, he said during his five weekly broadcast: "When we came into office on a hot summer day." But he paused, quickly catching himself, adding, "well we didn't come into office on a hot summer day — the economy had as much energy as a hound dog on a hot summer day."

Police fine tourists for violating codes

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Police in Venice began fining tourists for violating new dress and eating codes, city officials said. The fines are part of a municipal campaign called "decorum and cleanliness." Some tourists were fined 20,000-lira (\$14) for consuming beer and sandwiches in St. Mark's Square and strolling around this historic lagoon city shirtless or in bathing suits, municipal spokesman Bruno Padovan said. But police generally preferred just to give a warning to tourists rather than inflict a fine, Padovan said. Under the new law, which took effect Thursday, visitors are also forbidden to swim in city canals or play radios loudly. "We cannot permit the historic areas of Venice to become transformed into a camping ground," Mayor Nereo Laroni has said.

Friendship store to be more friendly

PEKING (AP) — The Friendship Store, a state-run department and food shop that caters to foreigners, Saturday promised a well-known Chinese-American it would improve its notoriously bad service. "We sincerely accept Anna Chennault's criticism," the management of the store wrote in a letter to the Communist Party's official newspaper, the People's Daily. Mrs. Chennault, the widow of famed World War II "Flying Tiger" founder Gen. Claire Lee Chennault and a prominent member of the U.S. export council, wrote a letter to the same daily two weeks ago criticizing the poor and surly service at the store. Clerks, she said, "simply treat customers as enemies. That's why everyone says there is no place less friendly than the Friendship Stores." The management promised to discipline sales assistants who are rude, "and we shall step up employee education in ideals and discipline as well as better train them for their job."

"We have no orders," said a sergeant voting after all-night guard duty at an artillery battalion.

Two men were killed when a speeding pickup truck sprayed a polling station with M-16 automatic rifle fire in Nakhon Si Thammarat in the south, the television later reported.

A vote counter in the nearby southern province of Pangnga was also shot dead, it said. Police knew no motive for either case.

The polls closed at 3 p.m. (0800 GMT) before the usual late afternoon monsoon rains that officials feared would keep voters away.

Soviet scientists discover new comet

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet scientists have discovered a comet with a tail 50,000 kilometers long, the Soviet News Agency TASS has said. Kim Churyumov and Vladimir Solodovnikov calculated that the object, like Halley's Comet, is moving clockwise and in the opposite direction to the planets. It was closest to the sun on May 9 of this year, TASS said. The comet, which has been named after the two scientists, was moving away from the solar system and was now about 250 to 260 million kilometers from earth, the agency added. The scientists, working at a station in the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan, registered the comet on the night of July 14-15. TASS said Soviet and foreign scientists had confirmed the discovery.

E. Germany claims new 'silent' explosive

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German scientists have developed a revolutionary new "silent" explosive for use in demolition in built-up city areas, the official ADN news agency has said. It said the explosive, patented and named Demolit, had been developed by researchers in East Berlin and Weimar. It can be deposited in holes in hard stone or marble and expands to shatter the substance. The method is quieter and more economical than normal dynamite, ADN said, and leaves a greater quantity of material intact for use. It also reduces the need to seal off streets and evacuate neighbouring buildings for demolition work.

Delhi police arrest 800 to head off communal riots

NEW DELHI (R) — Police arrested 800 people and put one-tenth of the Indian capital New Delhi under curfew Sunday to head off communal riots in which six people were killed and 60 wounded.

The riots, which started Saturday morning with clashes between Sikhs and Hindus, spread briefly Saturday night to the Muslim quarter in the central west city area of the capital.

By mid-morning, army patrols and strict enforcement of curfew ended the worst violence in Delhi since Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination 21 months ago.

The riots were set off after the killing in Punjab on Friday of 14 bus passengers, all Hindus except one, by Sikh extremists campaigning for a separate nation.

New Delhi Police Chief Ved Marwah, who called to all available reinforcements to put down the violence, said emotions were high among the capital's six million people.

Marwah ordered schools and other educational institutions closed Monday, when opposition political parties have called a general strike to protest against the bus massacre.

During Saturday's clashes Sikhs armed with swords and Hindus wielding tridents and hockey sticks battled each other in the western suburbs of Tilak Nagar.

Dozens of shops, houses, cars, motorcycles and buses were burned or damaged in street fighting involving more than 2,000 people, including many women, over a 10 square kilometre area with a mixed Sikh-Hindu population.

The suburb is a low income area whose residents include Hindu refugees from Punjab violence and widows of some of the 2,000 victims of anti-Sikh riots which broke out after Indira Gandhi's murder by two Sikh bodyguards.

For four hours police used tear gas, baton charges and shot at rioters before imposing a curfew and calling in the army.

Streets and alleys were littered with stones, broken glass and damaged household furniture.

After a 10-hour lull, violence briefly flared again Saturday night when there was an explosion in a Sikh temple in Tilak Nagar, a Sikh motorist was shot in east New Delhi and a mosque attacked in the walled city.

Police said four people were injured when the mosque was stormed.

Delhi's old walled city, a heavily-populated area of narrow alleys, is regularly the scene of Hindu-Muslim clashes, often a spillover of violence elsewhere in the country.

Police fired in the air to break up the rioters and put the area under curfew.

Marcos men kill Aquino supporter during rally

MANILA (Agencies) — Followers of ousted leader Ferdinand Marcos killed a supporter of President Corason Aquino during an anti-government rally in central Manila Sunday, hospital and police spokesmen said.

Police said the man was beaten up with clubs by Marcos loyalists shortly after anti-riot squads weighed in with truncheons, smoke bombs and tear gas to disperse the rally in Rizal Park.

At least 10 people were injured in the clash with about 2,000 loyalists. Rally organizer Ann Ferrer and two men armed with a gun and a knife were arrested, a police spokesman said.

Chanting "still for Marcos," the demonstrators defied a government ban on unauthorized rallies and ignored appeals by anti-riot police to leave the park

near Manila Bay. They split into smaller groups and attacked people suspected to be supporters of Mrs. Aquino, who replaced Marcos after the February military revolt.

In another incident a hand grenade tossed inside a joint U.S.-Philippines military compound damaged a building but hurt no one, police and the U.S. embassy reported Sunday.

Patrolman Fulgencio Besitas, in a report, said two unidentified men were seen throwing the grenade from a car. It landed in front of the administration building of the Joint United States Military Assistance Group-Philippines.

Besitas said it was not known if there were people inside the building when the grenade exploded Saturday evening.

Premier faces popularity test in local Jamaica polls

KINGSTON, Jamaica (R) — Jamaica holds municipal elections on Tuesday in what is expected to be a severe test of Prime Minister Edward Seaga's pro-Washington economic and foreign policies.

Plagued by high inflation, unemployment and foreign debt problems, Mr. Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) trails far

behind the People's National Party (PNP) of former Prime Minister Michael Manley in opinion polls.

The elections, in which 187 seats in 13 local government constituencies are being contested, is the first real clash between the two parties since Mr. Seaga swept to power in 1980 general elections.

Scientists see technological advances from Titanic mission

WOODS HOLE, Massachusetts (AP) — The vision of the Titanic mission came from human explorers, but the eyes belonged to Jason Jr. — a miniature mechanical marvel that gave the world intimate views of the world's most famous shipwreck.

The navy-financed expedition yielded more than pretty pictures. Navy officials say the work of Jason Jr., a lawnmower-sized robot, brought them a step closer to safe searches for downed jets, sunken submarines or errant missiles on the sea bottom.

"I'd say (Jason Jr.) is a smashing success... it went out and did what we advertised it would do," said Stewart E. Harris, a research specialist at the Deep Submergence Laboratory of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, co-sponsor of the expedition.

The robot, remotely controlled by a tiny joystick similar to those on video games, had a few problems. Its 76-metre tether twice became entangled in Titanic wreckage, and it was idle for two days after water seeped into the motor compartment. But researchers said such problems are expected on a test-run.

Jason Jr. is a prototype of Jason, a robot still on the drawing boards. Jason will have two mechanical arms, a nine-kilogramme

(20-pound) payload to take samples from the ocean floor and a twin-video camera system to create "stereo vision" images, said Harris.

The \$1.5 million project should be completed by next summer. Scientists hope to tether Jason to Argo, a camera-equipped survey sled that would scan the ocean floor. Jason, "the flying eyeball," would be sent down for close-ups, especially in areas where access is difficult.

In the Titanic mission, Jason Jr. was attached to Alvin, a three-man research submarine. The unmanned Argo-Jason would permit long-range surveys without the time and safety constraints of manned missions, Harris said.

He said Argo, which helped a U.S.-French team find the Titanic last September, already proved its worth. The unmanned sled, working nonstop over 12 days, covered an area of the East Pacific rise, a ridge west of Mexico, that took scientists doing manned surveys more than 10 years to examine, he said.

The Argo-Jason system will be able to cover more than 98 per cent of the ocean's floors, said Capt. Edward Craig, manager of the programme for the navy.

The devices could be used for place monitors on the sea bed for

long periods of time to detect geophysical changes, said Arthur Maxwell, director of the Institute for Geophysics at the University of Texas at Austin.

"The ability to do things remotely and oversee things remotely on the ocean floors is something we wanted to do for many years," Maxwell said.

Harris said the equipment could help scientists probe the mid-ocean ridge, a rugged, mountainous region that spans 64,360 kilometres (40,000 miles) from the middle of the Atlantic around the tip of Africa to the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Scientists hope surveys of the region, considered crucial to geological research, and other geologically active underwater areas will help them learn how the earth is changing.

Maxwell said he believes the most important result of the Titanic mission is the increased public awareness in the ocean it has generated.

To the weekend shutterbug, photographs and videotape of the Titanic may not have lived up to their billing as spectacular footage.

There were no panoramic views, and some shots lacked clarity. But to deep-sea scientists fighting the pitch black of the ocean bottom and fog-like conditions created by lights

reflecting off particles in the water, the shots were nothing less than works of art.

"They're the best pictures you can get underwater," said Harris who has worked on the problems of deep-sea photography.

Trying to get distance shots of the fabled liner posed the most difficult problems for the researchers 4 kilometres under the ocean's surface, Harris said.

Light cutting through water produces "back-scatter" — light reflecting off particles in the water and back into the camera in the same way light off fog shines back into the eyes of a motorist, Harris said.

To combat the problem, the lights are moved as far away from the camera as possible, illuminating the object to be photographed from an angle. That way, there is less light-reflecting area for the camera to cut.

Despite the powerful series of lights used to illuminate the area, the researchers still needed extremely light-sensitive film. The 200,000 ASA black and white videotape used on the submarine Alvin and unmanned sled Angus was about 1,000 times more sensitive than film commonly used by home photographers.

Scientists also use clusters of lights instead of just one to get more uniform lighting to offset

distortions. Even so, Harris said, the research team still could not take shots farther than 43 metres away. But, he said it was incredible they could take any shots from that distance so deep under the sea.

Because it is impossible to take photos from a greater distance, the Woods Hole research team tried to take enough shots so they can create a mosaic to show a complete Titanic.

The close-up colour views taken by Jason Jr. provide much clearer photos and video, but they too have problems unique to deep-sea photography.

Undersea currents often kick up floor sediment, obscuring shots, and lighting may affect clarity.

The Alvin submarine, equipped with three video cameras and two still cameras, and Jason Jr. with one of each, shot continually during 11 four-hour visits to the wreck.

At night, researchers sent out the Angus sled, which would cruise the area for another 12 hours. Each Angus camera has the capacity to shoot 3,200 photos per dive, Harris said.

Some footage from the Titanic expedition was released on July 18, and more samples are expected to be released at a news conference Wednesday in Washington.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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CHRISTMAS FOLLIES

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 6
♥ A J 10 8 4
♦ K 5
♣ Q 9 8 6 3

WEST
♠ A Q 10 7 4 3
♥ K 6
♦ 8 3
♣ 10 4 2

EAST
♠ J 9 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ A J 10 7 5
♣ K J 5

SOUTH
♠ K 5
♥ Q 9 2
♦ A Q 9 4 2
♣ A 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT 2 ♦ 3 ♣ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♣.

'Tis the season to begin looking for stocking stuffers for family and friends. If they are bridge players, you could do a lot worse than get Frank Stewart's delightful new book, "A Christmas Stocking," published by the author. Paperback, 64 pp., \$8.00. Available by mail order only, post free, from: Stocking, P.O. Box 18099, Memphis, Tenn. 38161-0959.

In it you will meet the members of the author's imaginary bridge club. If you think you recognize some of them, perhaps they were members of your club at one time or another. Certainly, we found some of our acquaintances among them.

When three men from the East

arrived at the club shortly before Christmas, they became involved in a challenge match. The visitors did not fare well on this board.

"At one table, Kelly and Sadie reached four hearts on the North-South cards and took 11 tricks without difficulty. In the replay, Baltimore opened 1 NT as South, Henrietta overcalled two spades. Frump forced with three hearts and South tried three no trump because he wanted to protect the spade king.

"Unwilling to concede a spade trick, Henrietta started with the four of clubs. Declarer played low from dummy, since there was no hurry to try winning a trick with the queen. Minnie, third to play, calmly produced the jack... or so she thought. It was really the king of clubs, of course.

"Declarer happily won his ace and returned a club toward dummy. He expected to win three club tricks, or even four if West split his J-10, and then if the diamond suit came he could make his contract without resorting to the unappealing heart finesse. When Henrietta followed with the two, that only reinforced South's fixations.

"It was a dazed South who saw dummy's eight of clubs gobbled up by Minnie's king... or, I mean jack. Then the jack of spades was put through and the contract finished three-down...

Neer-sightedness rewarded. A charming booklet.